



JFK Deep Politics QUARTERLY



Volume 3 Number 1

"Let the word go forth"

October 1997

ROBERT GRODEN SPEAKS OUT ON ZAPRUDER FILM "ALTERATION"

CONTENTS

 The Empire Strikes Back at the Zapruder Film	5
by ROBERT GRODEN	
JFK For a New Generation: A Review	8
by JAN STEVENS	
Kennedy and Caesar	13
by IAN GRIGGS	
Off With His Head! An Editorial	15
by WALT BROWN	
Dual Mysteries: The "Dead" Secret Service Agent	19
Saga and the "Agent(s)" On the Knoll	
by VINCE PALAMARA	
Lee Harvey Oswald: "Read my Lips: I'm Just a Patsy"	23
by STEVE GERLACH	
Warren Commission II	31
by DAVE PERRY	
Death and Dying in Memphis: An Update on the MLK Case and James Earl Ray	34
by JOSEPH BACKES	

Departments

In the News	2
Deep Quotes	15
JFK Internet	16
The JFK Quiz	12/38
Did You Know?	14
Food For Thought	30
As We Go to Press	38

JFK Deep Politics QUARTERLY

Editors:

JAN STEVENS
WALT BROWN

Associate Editor:

VINCE PALAMARA

Layout and Graphics:

JAN STEVENS

Document and Photo Scanning:

JOHN SALVAGGIO

JFK / Deep Politics Quarterly is published four times a year: January, April, July, and October, and is dedicated to the ongoing study of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and related topics of Intelligence operations, other assassinations, and other issues of "deep politics". We invite responsible articles, commentaries, reviews, and Letters to the Editors. These should not exceed 3,000 words for articles and 1,000 for letters. All materials published will be at the discretion of the editors and are subject to editorial revision. Material derogatory to, or divisive in the spirit of what JFK/DPQ represents will not be accepted.

The opinions and/or conclusions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editors.

E-mail: jfkdpq2@aol.com

On the Web:

<http://www.njmetronet.com/jfkdpq>

Subscription rates are \$26 (USA) for one year (four issues). European countries add \$8.00 (\$14 for 1st class). Please address all inquiries, Letters to the Editors, or subscriptions to:

JFK/ DEEP POLITICS QUARTERLY
PO BOX 174
HILLSDALE, NJ 07642 USA

In The News

WELCOME, VINCE PALAMARA!

JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly is proud to announce that author/researcher VINCE PALAMARA has joined us as Associate Editor of the publication. Vince is well-known as the author of "THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE" book on the Secret Service's protection inadequacies (if not involvement) in the assassination, and a frequent contributor to this and various other assassination journals. An astute and careful JFK researcher, he is a graduate of Duquesne University and has spoken at recent conferences about his primary research and first-hand interviews with surviving agents. We cordially welcome Vince to our editorial staff!

SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM IN DALLAS PLANS EXPANSION

Dallas' Sixth Floor Museum (at the former Schoolbook Depository) has expanded its plans for new seventh floor facilities and may expand its presence in Dealey Plaza. *The Dallas Morning News* reported the Phase II and Phase III plans in its June 1 edition. The building, owned by Dallas County Administration, houses their own offices here, and the Museum is operated by the Dallas County Historical Foundation. Andrew Stern, chairman of the Foundation and president of SunWest Communications, announced plans to open the seventh floor of the building (where the old HERTZ sign and other items are currently stored) for conference and classroom space, as well as offices. The project may cost over two million dollars and includes the museum's interest in having staff "guides" strolling around the Plaza. A pilot program with a guide in the street was tried out for 60 days in the summer. Dealey Plaza belongs to the City of Dallas, and is operated by the parks Department. The paper

reported that Museum executive director Jeff West said they were "working with the Parks Department to develop a management agreement for us to manage Dealey Plaza... There has been no opposition on the City Council [...] we hope our presence will rid the plaza of most of the conspiracy theorists and others of that kind there." Reports have filtered back from Dallas that several persons who sell conspiracy materials in the Plaza (including Robert Groden) have recently been visited by police.

Some have said that since the area was declared a national Historic Site by the federal government, that perhaps they can intervene. Jerry Dealey, a relative of man the plaza was named for, did some research and reported online that the government technically owns *the plaque* itself that lies at the foot of Elm Street -- but has no jurisdiction over the area.

We at DPQ are, of course, most unhappy about this part of the Museum's "expansion" plans and feel that if their bid for control of the plaza in which Jack Kennedy died is successful, the moral outrage of the conspiracy community should be heard as the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech will, in the future, be severely threatened.

We will be following this story closely!

CASTRO FEARED RETALIATION FOR JFK ASSASSINATION

The Associated Press reported this story as follows:

An "emotional and uneasy" Fidel Castro mobilized his armed forces and went on Cuban national television after President John F. Kennedy's assassination out of fear the United States would blame him and invade in retaliation, government documents say.

Mr. Castro feared that the United States would use the Kennedy assassination as an excuse to oust his Communist government, the National Security Agency said in declassified documents released Tuesday.

Lee Harvey Oswald, arrested in the president's killing, had been to the Soviet Union and was active in a pro-Castro group in

the United States.

The NSA documents quoted an unnamed American ambassador as believing that Cuba and the Soviet Union were behind Kennedy's killing. Mr. Castro tried to counter with allegations that Oswald really was a spy for the CIA or FBI.

"This caused Castro to wonder whether the assassin was . . . the mere instrument of a monstrous plot of American militarists, who, by eliminating Kennedy, would put [President Lyndon B.] Johnson in a position from which there would be only one way out: to drain off anti-Cuba hysteria by an action of declared war," the NSA reported.

In another NSA report, Cuban officials suggested that "ultra-revolutionary circles" in the United States engineered the assassination because they believed Kennedy had failed to strongly confront Havana.

HSCA MEMBER DIES

Former Republican congressman (1959-80) Samuel Devine of Ohio, an anti-conspiracy member of the HSCA, former FBI agent and prosecutor, died on June 27 at the age of 81.

Former FBI agent and Hoover crony Cartha DeLoach spoke at the funeral, and DPQ has learned that the Campisi brothers of Dallas -- alleged associates of Jack Ruby's -- provided catering after the wake.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Entertainment Weekly magazine reports that two debut albums will be released by new bands this year: "The Grassy Knoll" and "The Lee Harvey Oswald Band". A few readers may also recall the tasteless name of a punk band in the 80s called "The Dead Kennedys".

HOWARD STERN FANS ROCK KNOLL

In late July, self-proclaimed "king of all media" Howard Stern used the grassy knoll area as a sociopolitical standing ground for a protest against a local affiliate's decision not to renew his controversial A.M. radio show. About 120

fans gathered at the knoll shouting "Eagle Sucks" since learning that station KGEL ("The Eagle") announced its cancellation of the Stern show. "Stuttering John" Melendez, a Stern regular, joined fans-- including many females-- who reportedly exposed their breasts in the Plaza. The "Rev." Donnie Chattanooga Pounders said he was called to the knoll to "have a little radio prayer vigil" for the show's continuation, reported the *Dallas Morning News*. A male with a JFK mask was walking around saying "Dallas blew my head off and now they're killing Howard", the paper reported. Parts of the "event" were broadcast on Stern's radio and E! t.v.shows. Stern has been accused of "stopping at nothing" in acts of blatant, tasteless self-promotion, and this "event" was certainly no exception.

McCLOY DOUBTED MAGIC BULLET

Commission member John J. McCloy expressed serious doubts about the single bullet theory in a memo to Chief Counsel J. Lee Rankin just released in August by the Review Board. The June 24, 1964 document was marked "CONFIDENTIAL" -- and expresses McCloy's thoughts on a draft of a section of the report.



John J. McCloy

that a section of the report dealing with the possibility of shots being fired at Kennedy's motorcade from an overpass was "not well done." Elsewhere, McCloy questioned the commission's account that a bullet found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital was the "magic bullet." He wrote: "The statement concerning the bullet which was found on the stretcher is

not particularly persuasive because there is no indication that the 'stretcher bullet' was in fact the bullet which caused the [Connally] wrist wound."

McCloy was a former Assistant Secretary of Defense and a past president of the World Bank. He died in 1989. [See also Walt Brown's editorial and Dave Perry's article in this issue]

(This account taken from a story in NEWSDAY and various AP reports.)

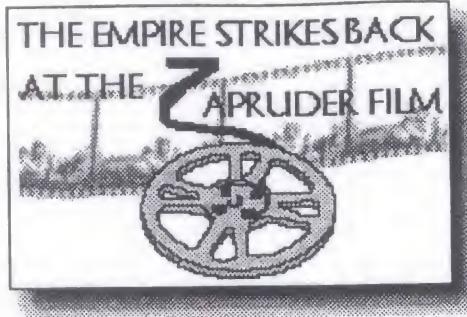
NEWS FROM THE CONSPIRACY MUSEUM

Ahimsa Archives, Inc., was formed with an interim board composed of Tom Bowden, R. B. Cutler and Raymond Coppock. Ahimsa will be housed temporarily in The Conspiracy Museum in Dallas, and is currently accepting artifacts, documents and personal papers. The Archives concerns itself with conspiracies surrounding the Presidency, including the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King as well as assassinations or attempted assassinations of Presidents Kennedy, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Roosevelt, Ford and Reagan. There are two press conferences in the works. The first, in early October, will cover the organization of Ahimsa Archives I and archive contributions to date on all except JFK. The second, on November 21, 1997, will exclusively cover archive contributions on President Kennedy.

The Archives will be open to the general public on a membership basis. The composition of the Board will be changed in November. Tom Bowden is the acting Executive Director and a search will be undertaken to find a permanent Executive Director. The corporation is non-profit under IRS Section 501 c,3. Monetary and archive contributions are currently being accepted. Any questions may be directed to Tom Bowden, AAI, 701 Commerce, Suite 530, Dallas, Texas 75202. Telephone 214-741-3040, Fax 214-741-9339.

Email: ahimsa@altinet.net.

*(as contributed by Tom Bowden)*4



by Robert Groden

Last November in Dallas, at a symposium sponsored by JFK/Lancer, the rumor that the original Zapruder film was and is a fake received a great deal of attention. The story (which is on par with the Truman Capote created fairy-tale that President Kennedy had survived Dallas and was living on one of Aristotle Onassis' islands) was started by disinformation mongers in the Kennedy case in an attempt to discredit what is probably the single most important piece of evidence that we have.

There is absolutely no basis in fact to back up this theory, and as long as the story was only being spread by the same "researchers" that were claiming that the "Z" film is a cartoon, that it doesn't matter what it shows, and that the president's head wounds were tampered with on his (stolen) body before the autopsy, the story was little more than an obvious attempt by the propaganda machine of the cover-up to confuse new and uninformed critics of the Warren Report and give the establishment press an excuse to ridicule the genuine critics and paint us all with the same brush as the nuts. These rumors were created as disinformation in the first place.

What was so frightening about the Dallas Lancer conference was that the disinformation peddlers had convinced some legitimate researchers that there was merit to the farce. People whom I had respected in their own fields, where they know what they are doing, were now attempting to present

Vol. Three, No. 1 October, 1997

themselves as photo-analysts and following the suggestions and theories of frauds and pretenders who couldn't tell an f-stop from a bus stop if their lives depended on it.

At the COPA symposium at Georgetown University in Washington this past June, Dr. David Mantik gave a presentation outlining the issues presented by the faction that claims that the Zapruder film is a fake. Ninety-five percent of the issues presented can easily be explained right off the bat. The other five percent would require expensive demonstrations (which were not shown) to illustrate the issues in question to see if his interpretations of the issues have any merit. As yet no such presentation has taken place.

Most of the problems seem to come from these "researchers" not understanding things such as the difference between focus and blur, ghost images, and linear edge stretch. The misinterpretation of film damage, emulsion flaws, and defects as artifact beyond reality also contribute to this problem. Faulty analysis and misinterpretation based on assumption of how motion picture film works has led so-called researchers to rush to judgment and create the fiction about the film being forged. One might ask, "To what end?" The fact that the Zapruder film has hurt those attempting to further the cover-up of the conspiracy more than any other piece of evidence and the lack of logic that for the film to be altered in the manner suggested, would work against the cover-up where leaving it alone would hurt the seekers of the truth doesn't bother the rumor mongers. If the film were faked, how come the forgers didn't make the President's head go forward (to back the lone assassin theory) instead of to the rear, which *destroys* the theory? Why would they leave shot timing gaps both too short and too long to fit any of the official theories? The clarity and resolution as well as the tonal range and the film emulsion and wind as well as copies made the same day also prove that the original film is genuine.

But these are the same "assassination researchers" that want us to believe that the grassy knoll was created by the CIA out of paper mache so that the assassins would have

cover (even though the plaza has been there since 1938, a quarter century prior to the assassination), that the entire Republican party and/or the Secret Service assassinated President Kennedy, that Governor Connally was actually shot from the front, and under threat of death, allowed himself to be surgically altered to make it appear that he was shot from behind. This allegedly took place before he regained consciousness while still in Parkland Hospital on the afternoon of the assassination. This should give us a clue to the degree of validity of the Z-film claim. For years these characters have altered the evidence to fit their illogical and far-out theories. This claim is no exception. Some, such as Dr. Mantik are sincere and believe what is being shown to them, but there are those who are using people such as him to promote their theories. On the final day at the Georgetown symposium {a certain author} started ranting and raving that Dr. Mantik's presentation was his work.

This, Dr. Mantik denied, but [the author] continued to insist that the "work" was his. If this was true, it explains everything. For the vast majority of the items presented by Dr. Mantik, simple and provable explanations answer the questions raised. I have not had the time nor the energy to deal with the other five percent or so.

Fortunately, very few people really believe that the film is a fake, but the resulting confusion and doubt create the danger of further disinformation.

One researcher has tried to "prove" that the Secret Service killed President Kennedy and has bootlegged a copy of the Zapruder film, increased the contrast and reduced the chroma (color saturation) and gray scale to make it appear as if the reflection of sunlight from the forehead and hair on Roy Kellerman's head was, "a nickel plated automatic pistol" fired by the limo driver, Bill Greer. Since the original Zapruder film proves that he was either wrong, lying, or crazy, he attacks the authenticity of the film.

Another, more well known but just as demented "researcher" has tried to convince his readership that the limousine stopped in the

middle of Elm Street (which it did not), and since the Zapruder, Nix, Muchmore, and Bronson films all prove that it didn't stop, he claims that all of the films of the assassination are faked. This also creates another problem for those who are trying to destroy the Zapruder film as evidence. If the film is faked, then the other three films, which confirm the authenticity of the Z-film would all have to be faked as well. The others, clearly, have not been faked either.

It also needs to be mentioned that not one of the originators of this ludicrous rumor have ever seen, held or inspected the "camera original" of the Zapruder film. I have. There is not one genuine earmark of forgery anywhere in the film. Both Dr. Mantik and myself have agreed to try to get together and try to resolve the remaining 5% of the "discoveries." However, because of the vast expense involved, and the fact that we live 1,700 miles apart, that has not yet occurred. I hope we will be able to do this before the end of the year.

THE LARRY HOWARD FILM

In 1991, while we were working on Oliver Stone's JFK, Larry Howard filmed the motorcade from Abraham Zapruder's perch using the same type of Bell and Howell 8mm movie camera. The artifacts cited by those promoting the story of the film being false are all present in the film shot by Larry.

Measurements, blur, focus, distance, the works. The measurements and blur of the Stemmons Freeway road sign which was placed back in its original spot by Oliver Stone are identical on the Howard and Zapruder films. The Howard film bears out the authenticity of the Zapruder film, as does everything else.

Once again I will state that I have no problem with the sincerity of Dr. Mantik. I believe and know that his conclusion here is wrong. But there are others who are using him and then hiding while they accomplish their foul work. These frauds know that the film is real and must be laughing their heads off at the amount of work and time that is being wasted on this hogwash.

Is the Zapruder film a fake? No! Just

because someone believes a fairy tale doesn't make it true. I clearly can't spare the weeks that it would take twiddle with every one of the issues that are being raised by this fairy tale.

Nor is it worth the expense to disprove a story that which is already proven as fiction. Disinformation such as the fake-Z-film story can only hurt the search for the truth.

May all the truth be known...soon!

(Used by special permission of the author. JFK/DPQ gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of Dallas researcher Greg Jaynes who first featured this article on his internet website.)



Dear Editors:

I enjoyed this piece on the reported death of a Secret Service man in Dallas on 22nd November 1963. This has always been a source of interest to me although I cannot claim to have studied it too deeply or got as close to it as Mark Crouch obviously has.

It was long my opinion that the story had originated through people seeing the prone form of Clint Hill across the back of the limo and assuming that he had been shot dead, maybe whilst returning fire. Incidentally, I am still not a hundred percent sure that isn't the origin of the rumor!

Mark Crouch states that the "dead guy story" broke at about the same time that Air Force One was leaving Love Field for Washington -- shortly before 4:00pm EST. I have reason to believe that it was about half an hour before that. I purchased the complete collection of news flashes which had come across the

Atlantic from Dallas into the BBC in London. Those in respect of the JFK assassination start at 6:42pm GMT (12:42pm CST, 1:42pm EST) and continue through until 9:15pm (3:15pm, 4:15pm EST). I think I'm correct in putting EST one hour behind CST. My basis for all the times is GMT (Greenwich Mean Time).

Anyway, a Reuter newsflash into the BBC in London, timed at 8:21pm GMT (2:21pm CST, 3:21pm EST) reads exactly as follows: SHOOTING DALLAS NOV 22 REUTER. A SECRET SERVICEMAN AND A DALLAS POLICEMAN WERE SHOT TODAY SOME DISTANCE FROM WHERE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED. MORE 2021. (The 2021 at the end is the GMT time - 8:21pm.)

That's the one and only mention of the mysterious dead Secret Service man in the whole of the news flashes. I do not have an address or contact number for Mark Crouch so I would ask if you would kindly pass it on to him. I don't think it will help to establish exactly where the story came from but at least it cuts down the time frame a little.

Ian Griggs

Dear Walt and Jan,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received this week from the National Archives.

I thought you and your readers might find it of interest. Though I bought many slides at \$3.50 each, I find \$11.25 prohibitive. Maybe that's the idea.

Maybe the Federal Government should go to WalMart where it costs only \$.47 to duplicate a color slide.

Rob Tindle

[Enclosed with Rob's letter was a transmittal from the Archives, saying just what he wrote, "The next schedule reflects the cost of 2x2 slides at US \$11.25 per copy. The new order form reflects these changes." Sincerely, Ramona Branch Oliver]

JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly



by Jan Stevens

JFK FOR A NEW GENERATION by Conover Hunt
(Dallas, TX: Sixth Floor Museum and Southern Methodist University Press, 1996)

Ms. Hunt is an historian from Texas and was the project director and chief curator of the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas from 1978 until it opened in 1989. The museum (located in the former Book Depository) and its handling of the assassination story is still subject to opposing views among some JFK researchers, but -- for reasons we will return to later -- should perhaps not be of *primary*, but only of *secondary* concern to those who might appreciate this book.

JFK for a New Generation is addressed to those who were born after 1960, hence the title, yet it is uncompromising in its rich and detailed narrative and command of many facts surrounding the event, its investigative and media history and the significance, accomplishments and promise of the Kennedy presidency. Ms. Hunt often writes in the first-person and gives the work a distinctly local yet apolitical flavor that makes this an interesting journey. She truly has a genuine affection for JFK's memory and, one senses, a deep personal feeling about the tragedy. This easy to read, yet not-at-all simplistic volume shows an eye for historical detail, though it does not discourse on conflicts in the evidence or make any serious effort to attempt to explain some of the dichotomies that make the case the quagmire it has always been. Facts are presented that often cover "both sides" of the conspiracy debate, yet, as we will see, they are not followed up as often as those of us who believe in a conspiracy would perhaps like. However, this type of analysis of the evidence and its

Vol. Three, No. 1 October, 1997
controversies is apparently not the book's real objective.

Like the Sixth Floor Museum's conceptual approach itself, Ms. Hunt seems to want to put forth many of the complexities of the case, its presentations in the media and its subsequent 30+ year history in understandable terms -- particularly for a "new generation" -- at times letting the chips falls where they may, but not intending to get involved in the fray. She states that in the future, the Kennedy assassination will be looked at much more objectively by historians and others free of the emotionalism that is intrinsic to those who still harbor vivid memories of those four days. In other words, this is a person who has obviously researched the case, but is not specifically looking at the subject here *as a researcher*, if you will. At times, some debatable material from the official version is accepted without challenge --but in other places, thankfully, the author does express a few doubts. Again, the reader should understand at the outset that the book's intention is *not* to dissect the case, but rather to present that which is known and merely to state aspects of the conspiracy view when pertinent to the discussion at hand. The book gives an appearance of trying for even-handedness, but I felt it was just not so often enough.

With that in mind, Ms. Hunt covers quite a bit of ground and is certainly not remiss on source materials and citations (by page 18 there are already 97 footnotes).

The book effectively begins with a kind of present-day 1963 "you are there" account of JFK's arrival in Dallas and takes us through that awful day in a chronological fashion through newspaper, radio and TV accounts and quotes, noting the mostly right-wing and even hostile Texas atmosphere that surrounded the presidential trip. After this, Ms. Hunt details quite effectively how the news was received and perceived throughout the world, before going to witness accounts (which are sometimes downplayed and/or noted as false or incorrect recall and "memory merge.") Well-known specifics are put forth on the plaza, the shooting, the trip to the hospital, the Tippit shooting, the Oswald arrest, the swearing-in of LBJ, the killing of the suspect, and all the rest

straight through to the funeral. It is a refreshing presentation, and the author's attention to how and when certain parts of the story were presented by the media are commendable (An example: CBS reported at 1:20 P.M. that the president had died; UPI reported it, based on Father Huber's statement, at 1:32, and the official announcement came at 1:33) She often relies on Barbie Zelizer's formidable book *Covering the Body* for various material here and throughout.

Ms. Hunt often refers to the terms "searchers" and "preservers" -- a distinction whose purpose seems to be to separate those who are more or less content with the official story and those who are not. She does not directly disparage the conspiracy viewpoint (as did author Gerald Posner), but neither does she shove the lone-nut conclusion down our throats. However, any astute researcher with experience can see what "side" Ms. Hunt seems to lean toward. To her credit, several discrepancies that don't add up are clearly shown for what they are: Oswald's prints on the boxes at the sixth floor window are said to be of no value as evidence; problems with Buell Frazier's description of the size of the package LHO allegedly took to work are noted; and eyewitness Howard Brennan is rightly castigated for his inability to ID Oswald *that day*, yet able to do it four months later for the Warren Commission. Even the chain of possession of the Connally fragments is called "illegitimate" -- thus, she notes, it cannot be shown that they indeed came from the governor's body. DPD Chief Curry's incorrect statements to reporters about the paraffin tests on the suspect are also criticized. Commission Exhibits 385,386, and 388 (those miserable Rydberg drawings that were supposed to show Kennedy's wounds; see Walt Brown's article in the July 1997 JFK/DPQ) are all pointed out as at least quite incorrect, if not downright inept. Surprisingly, even Posner himself gets chastised; Ms. Hunt indicates that *Case Closed* presented a one-sided account "by simply ignoring data" or "greatly simplifying material" that would have gone against his thesis. What is discouraging is that this passage loses much of its luster when the author then claims that

"murder is committed by people and not by sinister forces at large in society" (p.80), an unfortunate and entirely arguable comment, in my view.

On a similar note, it is also contended that the PBS *Frontline* special on Oswald was "a balanced presentation of the alleged assassin" -- another observation easily challenged. Furthermore, some passages are couched with a great caution of convenience, as in the

following passage where the Robert Groden-enhanced version of the Zapruder film (as shown on Geraldo's ABC show in 1975) is mentioned: "It *appeared* as if Connally had been shot by a different bullet than the one that injured JFK in the back, and it *seemed* that the headshot drove

Kennedy's head backward, as if he had been shot from the front." (all italics in the original) (p.79)

Oliver Stone and "JFK" are given ample space, but a few contradictions in Ms. Hunt's assessment are unsettling. She writes, for all intents and purposes, as one who is *against* the film due to her opinion that it is historically and factually invalid, yet she defends Stone's vision and right as an artist as well as his integrity for his great attention to detail. Although initially concluding that Stone did his homework, she then states that "Stone's contribution to history did not lie in the film, but in what he made of it as a piece of propaganda" (p.111). The book does make some rather strong statements about the overzealous and vituperative apologists and antagonists of the media -- concluding that they (especially the New York Times) were not only unfair to Stone, but wrong in worrying that "JFK" would be taken as literal history. Citing pro- and anti-conspiracy polls, the position is taken

that that most people recognize that the film was "a think piece about human disappointments" (?) and represented Stone's personal ideas and frustrations." This tends to water down the heady issues she has presented and make it all the more inconclusive. No poll or source is cited here, and should thus have been stated as opinion rather than presented as a conclusion of fact.

Ms. Hunt was on hand to witness Oliver Stone's filming of the Dealey Plaza scenes and was privy to the centrality of the arguments over whether the director could film from the actual sixth floor window. (He finally did.) The local color and first-hand knowledge here is quite a satisfying read. (A few readers may be familiar with some of this, as it was similarly covered in the December 1991 issue of *Texas Monthly*) This section of *JFK-FNG* is most lively and rousing if nonetheless a bit bewildering when trying to determine the author's true heartfelt position on the real merits of the film.

The research which supports the conspiracy view is presented chronologically from 1964 on, and the contributions of Meagher, Lane, Weisberg, Summers, Fonzi, et al are noted, albeit rather perfunctorily. The attempt is made to offer more of the salient points of the criticism over the years and how the research developed, but it is highly selective; again, the author is not writing a book on the evidence for and against nor its merits. Suffice it to say that Ms. Hunt is most proficient in saying quite a bit about *some of* the glaring "omissions," discrepancies and the evidence for conspiracy, yet seems more comfortable when dealing with the various official investigations (FBI, Secret Service, Warren Commission, Texas Attorney General, Church and Rockefeller Committees, Clark Panel, HSCA and the 1982 National Research Council's Report on the acoustics -- detailed in Chapter 4, "The Endless Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald").

Chapter 5, "The Media as Messenger" is, in my view, the strongest section of the book. It is filled with excellently detailed tidbits and "factoids," is very well researched from various primary sources and has the added advantage of

the author's having vivid memories of that weekend and access and exposure to local sources and material over the years. (One gets the impression that former TV and radio man Gary Mack, now the Museum's archivist, was instrumental here) A fine effort was made when discussing the impact and importance of television and how by "an accident of history [that] JFK's death became one of the keystones around which television news came to define its own profession." Ms. Hunt begins here by explaining President Kennedy's now-legendary special relationship with -- and special *importance to* -- the news media as our first "TV president." She goes on to explain (again, for the younger readers) what TV and print media were like back then and just how the assassination and the aftermath were reported at that time. Areas such as the possible Oswald-Ruby association, the well-known problems with Dan Rather, the *Life* magazine coverage, CBS, UPI and lots more are presented along with a subsection called "The Media and the Critics." A reasonable portion of the main bones of contention are covered, but some crucial ones are not. For example, the Garrison investigation -- and the vicious media bias that surrounded it -- receives scant mention here (although mentioned here and there in other chapters). In context, however, it all reads well and gives an adept account of some of the issues raised by the media's coverage to "the new generation" that the book targets.

There are several lengthy chapters on John F. Kennedy himself -- the man and the myth -- which perceptively deal with the president in *his times* and what he has since become in the collective memory as president, legend, and cultural icon. As with the Sixth Floor Museum itself, there are many particulars about style, fashion and pop culture that give a nice flavor of those very, very different times -- useful material for those who don't recall or did not live through them. Some of the writing here is quite touching, and not at all maudlin.

The explosive events of the early 1960s, the political climate of the Cold War and domestic upheaval, and the intelligence, wit and charm of JFK are all put into historical context

as Ms. Hunt weaves together how Camelot came to be, what came of all of it, and where it all led to in the seventies and after.

The author discusses in depth what can be known about the meaning of the assassination, and why journalists and specialized researchers, rather than professional historians, have delved into it. She believes that bona fide historians, as a group, have shied away from the subject due to the lack of objectivity, the emotionalism and the highly charged political atmosphere that has surrounded the case --- as they ostensibly wait for *all* the documentation to be released. She has a point, but it could also be contended that there is already *plenty* of documentation, (some of it very recently released and not without significance) and that historians are tired of the disarray that the research community has been in, the lack of a cohesive conspiracy view *as well as* the emotionalism that Ms. Hunt refers to. Perhaps historians are also just sick and tired of hearing about the JFK case -- not enough time has passed to look at it in totally subjective terms for historical analysis. Still, the author's call for more academic interest is noble.

All in all, Conover Hunt's (large-size trade paper) book is filled with 964 footnotes covering 127 pages of text, with many amazing photographs and illustrations-- many of which are now either owned by the Sixth Floor Museum or are currently exhibits there. Some of these photos are uncropped -- so researchers who are familiar with many of these as they have often appeared in reduced-size or cropped versions will be delighted to see these full prints. An added bonus is the fine glossy paper stock, which only enhances the beautifully reproduced photographs with vivid clarity.

Concluding chapters focus on the various Kennedy memorials, the sequence of events and the process of how the Texas School Book Depository changed hands after 1963 and how the Museum built on its site eventually became a reality. It is a fascinating story that Ms. Hunt was, of course, intimately involved with, and I suspect "older" researchers will appreciate it even more than newer ones.

As was alluded to at the beginning of this review, there are those who believe the museum's stance (or lack of one) and choice of exhibits -- and their presentation -- reflect a hearty support for the official version. Then there are those who would disagree and yet express great concern about the "fence-straddling" that is perceived as characterizing the Museum and its spokespersons. I find myself more in the latter category and have expressed this apprehension to veteran researcher Gary Mack, the museum's respected and knowledgeable archivist. But having been through The Sixth Floor Museum several times -- first in 1991 and then again (four times) in July, 1996, I must say I found it an amazing place that must be understood in its context: that of an educational exhibition that hopes to strive for an objective appeal to a broad range of visitors that come to Dealey Plaza from all over the world. Yes, it does seem to want to shy away from being embroiled in controversy (the elimination of frame 313 from the Zapruder film was an early indication -- yet the museum emphasizes its concern for the many school children who frequent it). And yes, it certainly is not encouraging or supporting a more evenhanded view toward a conspiracy. The Sixth Floor Museum has not taken an "official" public stance on the guilt or innocence of Oswald, yet many seasoned assassination researchers seem quite adamant in calling it a tribute to the lone-nut thesis. Personally, I believe it's quite apparent that the museum leans in that direction -- although it democratically, if not perhaps a bit reluctantly, gives some space over to the some of the more rational points of some noted conspiracy authors. First, one must actually *visit* the museum in Dallas and *see the exhibits* (and the "sniper's nest") to form a reasonably informed opinion. It gives one an altogether new experience in the dynamics of Dealey Plaza, the scene of the crime. (The sixth floor window is haunting, time after time.)

Secondly, this writer wonders whether or not the Museum can *afford to* take a declarative stance on the issue of conspiracy -- as that would not appear to be its function, and hence might even damage its *attempt* at

neutrality and its effectiveness as a disseminator of information to the public. The heated academic and often personal disputes we in the research community all have among us make it easier to understand that there is almost no cogent and realistic consensus emanating from our own ranks that would even *make* a tenable position at the museum presentable. Whether we like it or not, the long history of the assassination's lingering effect on Dallasites over the years must be taken into account as well. It is bad enough almost *all* areas of this case are disagreed upon among us -- let alone the gigantic abyss that exists between us and the lone-nut crowd. Complicating the matter even more are recent reports from Dallas researchers who contend that the Museum is "bullying" them -- whether directly or indirectly: a few of those who sell assassination-related materials in the Plaza have reportedly been pressured by police and/or local officials -- and questions are being raised as to the Museum's involvement or influence. [see IN THE NEWS on page 2)

Many who read this book will undoubtedly take it as a lengthier treatise directly reflecting the Museum's *assumed* viewpoint. Whether it is actually that is open to question, and must, in the last analysis be left for the reader to decide. (After all, the Museum *did* co-publish the book.)

The Museum aside for the moment, Ms. Hunt's book attempts to be even-handed, but bias can often be detected in the selective use of what is often *not* said and what is, at times, conveniently *left out* in the book. That being said, and taken on the level of a workable overview of the Kennedy assassination in historical context and a primer on the president's life and times (as presented to a "new generation") it generally works -- the aforementioned exceptions notwithstanding.

JFK Quiz

1. What was Marguerite Oswald's maiden name?
2. How was Robert Oswald employed at the time of the assassination?
3. Name Marguerite's three husbands.
4. Where is Lee Harvey Oswald buried?
5. Give Oswald's father's full name.
6. When did Oswald's parents die?
7. To which relative did Oswald come in close proximity while in Japan?
8. Which of Oswald's two daughters was born in the USSR?
9. Marina's uncle was in the Soviet MVD. Name him.
10. What name had Lee Oswald chosen had his first child been a boy?

(Answers on page 38)

For the most extensive catalog of JFK assassination and other related materials, we highly recommend:

**LAST HURRAH BOOKSHOP
849 W. THIRD STREET #1
WILLIAMSPORT, PA
17701
717-321-1150**

KENNEDY AND CAESAR
...
**A LOOK AT THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN
THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT
ASSASSINATIONS IN HISTORY**

by Ian Griggs

INTRODUCTION

The assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States of America, on Friday 22nd November, 1963 was the most significant political crime since the assassination of Julius Caesar. Caesar, whose correct name was Gaius Julius Caesar, was slain in Rome some 2,007 years earlier. An examination of the parallels between these two world leaders reveals that they shared many common characteristics - similar to those *contrived* links between Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.

It is not my intention here to magnify such frivolities as the fact that the names *Julius Caesar* and *John F. Kennedy* each contains 12 letters. I think that the parallels between these two men - in life and in death - surpass such superficialities.

THEIR LIVES...

(1) Caesar and Kennedy are acknowledged as the most powerful leaders of the known world at the time of their deaths.. Each was the leader of the strongest and most influential nation on earth. Furthermore, each had distinguished himself in the world of literature as well as in the fields of diplomacy, political leadership and war.

(2) As undisputed leader (one may even say dictator) of the Roman Empire, Caesar had destroyed the power of the corrupt Roman nobility. It is not difficult to find parallels in

Vol. Three, No. 1 October, 1997

Kennedy's actions and attitude towards increasingly influential groups such as the Mafia and the CIA.

(3) Caesar was a social reformer of considerable stature. He had introduced the Julian calendar and planned further major reforms. Kennedy had shown great support for the civil rights movement, sought to increase his country's sphere of influence through the space program, and was engaged in a major change in the country's fiscal system.

...AND THEIR DEATHS

(4) It is likely, though by no means certain, that fear of each man's increasing sovereign power led to his assassination.

(5) Both Caesar and Kennedy were assassinated in a public place and each, in my humble opinion, was killed (either directly or indirectly) by elements from within his own administration.

(6) Caesar was forewarned of his impending doom. Recall the warning "*Beware the Ides of March.*" (Act I, Scene 2, *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare). Kennedy's death was also foreseen or anticipated by such diverse characters as Rose Cheramie and Joseph Milteer.

(7) In Act II, Scene 2, of *Julius Caesar*, Caesar remarked to his wife: "*Death, a necessary end, will come when it will come.*" I cannot be alone in likening this to John Kennedy's observation to Jackie, on the morning of his death, that it would be a simple task for someone to assassinate him. He even went as far as to say that all it needed was a high building and a high-powered rifle. Both men were perhaps resigned to an untimely end.

CONCLUSION

We find some marked similarities between the two men and their deaths. There is however, one important and ironic contrast:

Caesar's death was the subject of the famous and stirring *"Friends, Romans and countrymen"* speech by Mark Antony - but all Kennedy got was the Warren Commission's dishonest and inadequate *Report!*

I know that I am not the first person to notice similarities between the Kennedy and Caesar assassinations. Go to the final sentence of Jim Marrs' all-encompassing book *Crossfire*. It consists of just three words: *"Et tu, Lyndon?"*

(The author would gratefully acknowledge the advice and assistance of my friend and fellow researcher Connie Kritzberg of Durango, Colorado during the completion of this paper.)

Did You Know?

Could ten bucks have drastically altered the history of the twentieth century?

Recently, at a visit to the National Archives, co-editor Walt Brown found the following letter (all errors in copy):

Santiago, de Cuba
Nov 6, 1940

"My good friend Roosevelt. I don't know very English, but I know as much as I write to you. I like to hear the radio, and I am very happy because I heard in it that you will be President for a new (periodo).

I am twelve years old. I am a boy but I think very much, but I do not think that I am writing to the President of the United States.

If you like, give me a ten dollar bill green american, in the letter because never, I have not seen a ten dollar bill green american and I would like to have one of them.

My address is: Fidel Castro Colegio de

Dolores Santiago de Cuba Oriente Cuba

I don't know very English I know very much Spanish and I suppose you don't know any Spanish but you know very English because you are American but I am not american. (Thank you very much) Good by

Your Friend Fidel Castro

If you want iron to make your sheaps [ships], I will show to you the biggest (minas) of iron of the land. They are in Magari, Oriente, Cuba"

[Ed. note: History does not record if the young (12 years old) Fidel Castro received a response--or the hoped-for largess from the just-reelected Franklin D. Roosevelt, but it seems like one of those constant ironies of history, that if he had, maybe some things would have turned out differently. There are also persistent stories that Castro would later have a baseball tryout with, of all teams, the Washington Senators--the first such team, which became the Minnesota Twins--again, a decision to keep him around, like a gratuitous \$10, could have changed history.]

Elsewhere in the Archives, it was learned that the famous "Zimmerman Telegraph," in which Germany tried to cut a diplomatic deal with Mexico prior to US entry in WW I, was translated in the offices of high-level British Intelligence on 3/2/1917 by an "Ed Bell." We presume this is no relation to the Ed Bell who occasionally contributes material to the JFK/DPQ.

In US government sites, such as the Archives, the Smithsonian, et al, there are some interesting book stalls, and naturally, there is a decent "Presidential" section, including much on JFK. But only one book dealing with the Kennedy assassination was found for sale at any of them.... care to guess which one? If you guessed a book with a two word title, and each word started with "C," you are correct.

Oh, please....

Deep Quotes

"A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject."

-- Winston Churchill

"Research serves to make building stones out of stumbling blocks."

-- Arthur D. Little

"It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong."

-- Voltaire

"Most history is guessing, and the rest is prejudice..."

-- Will Durant, historian

"Everyone in my family forgives -- except Bobby."

-- Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.

Off With His Head! AN EDITORIAL BY WALT BROWN

It has been a widely known fact that Senator Richard Russell of Georgia expressed reservations many years ago about the Warren Commission's findings, and the magic bullet theory in particular. Equally curious were the reservations expressed by Representative Hale Boggs of Louisiana, shortly before he took an

Vol. Three, No. 1 October, 1997

ill-fated plane ride from which he never returned.

This summer, a document was released showing that John McCloy **also** had doubts about the "magic bullet," which was then, and remains now, the sine qua non of the lone assassin theory, despite semantic Warren Commission disclaimers to the contrary.

These concerns and reservations are serious, and go to the heart of the findings of the Warren Commission. Far more serious, however, are the actions (and by extension, the words, as he would champion the lone assassin theory seemingly forever) of Warren Commissioner and later President, Gerald R. Ford. Then Congressman Ford did not express reservations about the *Report* --- he rewrote it, and based on what expertise (since he has none about anything) one can only guess.

What Gerald Ford did approaches criminality. In a recently released document, it is apparent that Ford rewrote the key phrasing of the "lower" wound sustained by President Kennedy. The original draft, prepared by people who, one would presume, had some knowledge of the medical evidence, read, "A bullet had entered his [JFK's] back at a point slightly above the shoulder to the right of his spine." When Ford completed his conspiratorial blue-pencil, that sentence read, "A bullet had entered the back of his neck to the right of the spine." By removing the reference to the shoulder, Ford allowed for the perpetuation of the lone-assassin myth, and as such, might have made an interesting study in an obstruction of justice venue.

Ford was not done, however. Further down on the same page (featured on the inside back cover of this issue...), the future President who was unaware that Poland was a Communist country, was at it again. An original read, "...Governor Connally, who had been facing toward the crowd on the right, started to turn toward the left in order to see the President." In Ford's revision, the phrase "in order to see the President" has been excised. And it was neither an accident nor a semantic change; it was vital to save the lone assassin charade. The Warren Commission's on-site



reconstructions, made contrary to existing photographs and Governor Connally's testimony, always placed Connally to JFK's *left*. Yet here, the *Report* was suggesting that Connally was turning to his left to see JFK; if he was already to his left, he would have turned right to see JFK. Ford cut out a truth that would have exposed the entire Warren Commission fraud-- and at a time, in 1964, when the whole tipsy edifice would have come crashing down, as one interested party would note in 1978. Is it surprising that we first learn of these changes in 1997? I don't think so.

For if Ford had not made his revisions, it is at least possible that someone might have taken note of the difficulty of an assassin's bullet, supposedly fired at a downward angle, and from right to left, to enter JFK where it was originally noted and then do all that was ascribed to the magic bullet. Yet Ford's revisions allowed the magic bullet to survive, and other Commissioners' reservations would have to wait.

Because of Ford's changes, no investigative agencies would be likely to take notice, and so it was a case of justice denied.

It can be argued that this editing is nothing short of obstruction of justice, for which the statute of limitations has no doubt long ago expired. Ford would later be "appointed" president of the United States by Richard Nixon, a man who had much to gain by the death of JFK, and who has always been a marginal suspect in the events of November 22, 1963. Nixon, in his own "write," would edit history -- in his case, the transcripts of his tape recordings; but where Nixon used bold strokes of the stylus to present an alternate reality to the American public, he was for the most part covering up undignified presidential language, and, where more serious "omissions" were created, he was covering up *his own* dirty doings. In the case of what Congressman Ford did with the document printed herein, he was

changing the public perception of action taken by *others* and preventing the public from knowing about those others at the time -- September, 1964, when the full truth, and the great majority of the people who knew that truth-- were still available.

Now, as we learn of what Ford did, we can only lament his perfidy and recall the laughing stock that he made of himself as President. We must regret that in one bit of editing, he did more in the medical domain than his wife would ever subsequently do. What is left for us is to take the tack used in the halcyon days of the French Revolution and shout, "Off with his head!!"

JFK Internet News

by Jan Stevens

The past few months have been an interesting time for web surfers as far as new JFK material. New sites, good and bad, are popping up left and right. The Deep Politics Quarterly site, now at:

<http://www.njmetronet.com/jfkdpq> has been revamped once again, and will soon have a photo library and audio downloads as well. Remember to bookmark our newly updated LINKS pages as we now have the largest collection (over 100) of annotated JFK links, to my knowledge, anywhere on the Web!

SCENE OF THE CRIME

<http://www.flash.net/~Jaynes/>

-- Dallas researcher Greg Jaynes had a great idea for a website: He included photographs taken primarily by himself of various areas in Dealey Plaza -- which change almost every week.(A good reason to go back again and

again!) These are by no means the usual "scenic views" -- Greg has featured photos of the overpass storm drain and its view to the approximate Z313 area on Elm Street, the steps going up from the street to the eastern part of the picket fence, aerial views (!) of the Dal-Tex building and former Depository, etc. He takes suggestions from site visitors and changes the content quite often, keeping it fresh. Articles and stories on "Badge Man," Patsy Paschall, Robert Groden and other subjects in the JFK case have been a part of this website too. Nice work, Greg!

MSNBC TIME AND AGAIN-JFK

<http://www.msnbc.com/Onair/msnbc/TimeAndAgain/archive/jfk/default.asp>

NBC's partnership with Microsoft for the cable network MSNBC has produced a number of television documentaries utilizing much of NBC's footage from the 1960s of the Kennedy presidency not seen since that time. The graphically rich website has several pages and features on JFK the man, the administration and the assassination. The latter feature "Surround Video" views of the Sixth Floor Window, the knoll and other images from a clickable image map, but you must have Microsoft "DIRECTX" as a plug-in installed in your browser. I consider this a major drawback, since to begin with, there are more common video applications and I'm on a Macintosh, so of course was unable to download it from the DIRECTX site at

<http://www.microsoft.com/directx/default.asp>.

The file is 33MB and needs 81MB after install, so make sure you have a lot of memory if you plan this download.

Other pages have video and audio clips (Malcolm Kilduff among them) which require the "Shockwave" plug-in (a more common plug-in for NETSCAPE or EXPLORER browsers). A section called "I Remember JFK" has some interesting first person (text) stories. On the assassination page (no conspiracies here)



the textual links are a bit deceptive, in my view. If you click on the name "Lee Harvey Oswald" for example, you'll end up at John McAdams' "lone-nut" site; the lone nut is LHO, not JMcA.

REVIEW BOARD TESTIMONIES

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/arrb/>

Speaking of McAdams, he has put an excellent resource for ARRB witnesses and their full testimonies on his multi-faceted website, as well as document content summaries, chronologies, etc. The site also provides a helpful and searchable database too. Statements to the Board by Peter Dale Scott, Gary Mack, Jim DiEugenio, Michael Kurtz, Steve Tilley of the National Archives, Richard Trask, Josiah Thompson and many others are all here, for example. There is nothing like this on the Web, and the site contains a lot of very important and very *current* material. Professor McAdams, a well-known but none too popular figure on the internet newsgroups (due to his Oswald-alone stance and willingness to argue his case militantly) still offers, we believe, a real service to serious JFK researchers here.

GEORGE MAHLBERG

<http://www.tw-zone.com/cosmo/>

Not a JFK site by any means, this is a website from a computer graphics designer (and a very good one). He's the man responsible for that

JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly

photographically-altered montage, entitled "In-A-Gadda-de-Oswald" (done in *PHOTOSHOP 4.0*) of the famous picture of Oswald being shot by Ruby. The photo was all over the internet and was being sent around to researchers by e-mail for a few weeks back in the spring.

It seems most folks found the photo work hilarious satire, but some did express a distaste that such a serious and numbing event would be subject to satire. Whatever your view, we merely reprint the montage so the reader who may not have seen it will understand the reference. (We neither endorse or condemn the image or its creator, although we will say it did make US laugh. Lighten up, people!) Mahlberg features other famous photos, like Hendrix and Kent State, that he has altered and depicted at the site, and is currently running an Oswald essay contest. He writes as to what he's looking for:

"Essays, poems or other forms of writing that analyze In-A-Gadda-Da-Oswald in cultural, critical, parodic, aesthetic, political, artistic or other styles. Creative and experimental approaches are welcome.

Please limit pieces to 1,000 words or less (Send advanced notice for longer contributions or art). Thinkers and writers of any age or discipline are welcome to submit."



(c)George Mahlberg 1997

THE LEE AND ME PAGE

Vol. Three, No. 1 October, 1997

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/9754/0swald1j.html>

Talk about "bad taste"! Some young person, obsessed with Oswald, presented this "tribute page" to LHO. Lest one misunderstands his intentions, I offer his website's opening quote:

"Dear Visiter [sic],
Thanks for visiting, but I would just like to preface this page by letting you know that:

- A}I do not want to kill the President.
- B}I am not a crazed JFK freak.
- C}I could care less about that conspiracy crap.
- D}I believe Lee did it.
- E}I think Lee was pretty damn cool.

-Your Friends at Lee & Me
Fill Out the survey! "

He sites a list of similarities between himself and Oswald such as "didn't like breakfast," "voracious reader," "likes kids," etc. I suspect it's all in good fun, but it's just unsubstantial and silly, that's all.

JAMES EARL RAY

<http://www.catyoga.com/>

The only "official and authorized" website for prisoner #65477, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King. It features news updates on Ray's quest for a new trial, his attempts at getting a kidney transplant and the King family's reactions. Sound bytes and a piece by Dr. William Pepper, Ray's attorney and author of the book "Orders to Kill" (Carroll & Graf, 1995) as well as links to the Civil Rights Museum are also featured.



James Earl Ray

JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly

Some Short Takes:

COPA (The Coalition on Political Assassinations)

<http://www.nicom.com/~copa/news.htm>

COPA's site needs some updating, but does feature info on conferences, videos, news events, documents, action alerts and other activities, etc. COPA's work is important to all of us in the research community and deserves your support.

THE ARRB 1996 ANNUAL REPORT

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/advisory/arrb96>

For serious researchers who may not be on the Assassination Records Review Board's mailing list, here you may obtain the fiscal year 1996 summary report of their activities, hearings, document acquisitions and goals for the coming year. This is an important report, and one that we should all read in depth.

THE HSCA VOLUMES

<gopher://freenet.akron.oh.us:70/11/SIGS/JFK/Alphabet/HSCA/hsea-vol>

For those who may not want to wait for the new CD-ROM release, Deanie Richards has uploaded the House Select Committee volumes on her gopher site. Be advised that you may need the patience of Job, since the downloads are incredibly long, but it may be worth your while if your looking for something specific in a certain volume.

TOM ROSSLEY-JFK BOOKS

<http://www.abebooks.com/home/tomnl>

If you're looking for any particular rare JFK assassination books, this private collector is offering some gems (Joeston, Curry, Penn Jones, Flammonde, etc.) It's worth a look.

Vol. Three, No. 1 October, 1997

ROADTRIPAMERICA-DEALEY PLAZA

<http://www.roadtripamerica.com/places/dallas.htm>

A one page website with some photos of the controversial limo tour, the actors who portrayed JFK and Jackie in the car in Stone's film, and some tourist comments. Till next time, see you on the net.

(Webmasters may contact me at jfkdpq2@aol for website updates and other internet news.)



DUAL MYSTERIES: THE "DEAD SECRET SERVICE AGENT" SAGA AND THE "AGENT(S)" ON THE KNOLL

by Vince Palamara

In the July, 1997 *JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly* article "Jim Fox and the Dead Secret Service Agent Story," Mark Crouch raised some fascinating possibilities. In fact, I was so inspired by that article that I finally decided to do something I should have done a long time ago: namely, detail every scrap of data concerning this mystery, as well as the one concerning the "agent(s)" of unknown repute spotted in Dealey Plaza immediately after the assassination.

First things, first, however; here is every known reference to the dead agent I could find as reported in the media on November 22, 1963. Eddie Barker, KRLD-TV, a CBS affiliate, noted, "The word is that the President was killed, one of his agents is dead, and Governor Connally was wounded." ABC News in Washington reported, "A Secret Service agent apparently was shot by one of the assassin's bullets." ABC's Bill Lord report included, "Did confirm the death of the secret service agent... one of the Secret Service agents

was killed...Secret Service agents usually walk right beside the car." ABC Washington also noted, "One of the Secret Service agents traveling with the President was killed today."

The Associated Press (AP) was quoted on ABC/WFAA: "A Secret Service agent and a Dallas policeman were shot and killed some distance from where the President was shot." At 12:45 p.m. CST, KRLD-TV, a CBS affiliate, reported that a Secret Service agent had been killed along with the President.

At 1:23 pm, CST, CBS's Walter Cronkite reported, "A Secret Service man was also killed in the fusillade of shots." Seth Kantor, a reporter for Scripps-Howard, would write in his notebook, which was published by the Warren Commission [20H 410] "They even have to die in secret." At 2:14, the AP again made note: "A Secret Service Agent and a Dallas policeman were shot and killed today. The Dallas Police radio, channel two, also carried the story: (2:40 p.m.) "One of the Secret Service men on the field--Elm and Houston, said that it came over his Teletype that one of the Secret Service men had been killed." The Dallas *Times Herald*, dateline November 22, 1963, added, "From the Secret Service office in Dallas--a spokesman could neither confirm or deny the report: 'All I've heard is the same reports you've heard [sic]'." At 3:40 p.m. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Robert A. Wallace reported, "No Secret Service man was injured in the attack on President Kennedy," a denial of sorts, but it does not indicate if one was killed, or if there was violence away from "the attack on President Kennedy."

Beyond this, several authors, this one included, have come upon information that, in one way or another, appears to corroborate the story to a certain extent. What follows is a listing of these findings.

In *High Treason 2* (p. 439), DNC advance man Marty Underwood said to Harry Livingstone-- "There were a couple of suicides in the thing, with the Secret Service and everything..." Livingstone: "Do you remember who committed suicide?" Underwood: "I don't remember. I think there

were a couple...." [He is then cut off by Livingstone.]

Secondly, in Palamara's *The Third Alternative* (p. 36): "While all three major television networks reported that "A Secret Service agent and a Dallas policeman were shot and killed" on 11/22/63, only to be officially corrected later by Secret Service officials, this author learned from Crouch, [Mark Crouch, friend and confidante of PRS agent/photographer James K. "Jack" Fox] that Agent Fox stated that the story was **true!!** According to Crouch, Fox was working in the Executive Office Building on 11/ 22/63 (where the PRS office was), when he was asked by SAIC of PRS Robert Bouck to get ready a detail of four to six agents to assist in retrieving the body and casket of the unnamed Secret Service agent. Fox told Crouch, "We lost a man that day- *our man*," and qualified his remarks by stating that he was *not* referring to JFK! This was a deathbed confession of sorts, -- Fox died not long after telling Crouch this in the early 1980's [ed. note: Fox died in 1987]. (Interestingly, although having heard the news reports that stated that the President's limousine raced to Parkland Hospital after the shooting, Mrs. Bill Greer thought for several hours that her husband had perished that day! Since she knew that Greer was the *driver* of JFK's car, this appears to be a strange admission.) (Death of a President, p. 354, 1988 edition; interview of Richard Greer, 10/7/91);

Third, from Richard Trask's *Pictures of the Pain*, (p. 50): Mrs. Cecil Stoughton had similar concerns about her husband to those of Mrs. Greer cited above, no doubt due to these same reports.

These tidbits, seemingly corroborative data concerning this mysterious, unnamed "dead" agent, tantalize us with the sheer volume of their credibility. With this in mind, I decided to "get specific" and try to FIND this deceased Secret Service Agent. Initially, I thought I might have found him: ATSAIC Stewart G. "Stu" Stout, stationed at the Trade Mart on November 22, 1963, died--cause unknown--immediately after Dallas, according to Agents Sam Kinney and Floyd Boring (author's

interviews, 1994). In fact, Boring initially doubted that Stout was *even in Dallas* ("Gee, I don't think so...then again, I guess I should have known he was there because he died shortly thereafter.") Ironically, S/A Stout *rode in the hearse* [JFK's] (presumably upright, and breathing) from Parkland Hospital to Love Field on November 22, 1963!! [Stout had also been involved in protecting Truman at Blair House during the assassination attempt on November 1, 1950 along with Floyd Boring, as well as having been with Vice President Nixon in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1958.]

However, three items of data appear to quash this initial identification of the "dead" agent: First, Stout's report of his activities, dated 11/29/63 (18H 785); secondly, Stout's report, dated April 29, 1964, concerning the infamous drinking incident (18H 680); finally, an actual *film clip* of Stout with LBJ in California in 1964 as depicted in the 1992 PBS video "LBJ." Reports of Stout's demise apparently were, at least initially, exaggerated.

So the use of the word "immediately" by Kinney and Boring appears to be a slight case of hyperbole on their part. So I then focused on the other two agents, Emory Roberts, and Henry Rybka, who always aroused my suspicions in regard to this matter.

Fellow ATSAIC Emory P. Roberts died of unknown causes, the *very same time* an unnamed agent took his life in the... "Sixties, in Washington, with his own weapon. There were signs he was beginning to buckle," as former agent Chick Rochner explained to fellow former agent Marty Venker! ("Confessions of an Ex-Secret Service Agent," pp. 216-217) As for Agent Rybka, the only written confirmation of his appearance after November 22, 1963, is his alleged report found on 25H 787. However, unlike every other report found in volumes 18 and 25, save Agent Greer's, it is *undated*. In addition, there is a strange lack of detail and content, and there is *no approval stamp* by SAIC Behn. Keeping in mind the three documents that place him in the follow-up car on November 22, when he actually was left behind at Love Field (see *JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly*, October, 1996), something appears

to be amiss.

Unfortunately for this specific quest, Roberts and the "unnamed" agent died in the late 1960s, while Rybka's presence as late as November 27 is confirmed by S/A Roy Kellerman in his WC testimony (2H 86), ...so much for that. Still, there HAD to be something to these tales of the "dead" agent; I decided to look still further. After an exhaustive examination of EVERY agent even remotely associated with the Texas trip (using the Warren Report, the 26 volumes, the HSCA materials, newly released interviews, plus Secret Service shift reports as sources), I have come to the conclusion I feel I can state most firmly: the *only* agent who is a real viable candidate for *possibly* being the dead agent is **Dennis R. Halterman**, a White House Detail agent who, as the shift reports bear out, was in San Antonio with the President on November 21 but who, for all intents and purposes, "disappears" from the record after that date. In essence, there is no written record of if, when, how, or where he went after that stop on the Texas tour: to Houston? Dallas? Austin? Washington? Halterman's name was known to me before I obtained the shift reports last year, as he is listed as being a member of the WH Detail in an alphabetical listing provided by Fred Ciacelli of the traveling JFK Museum to me in late 1993. It was also from this list that I asked Sam Kinney if Halterman--along with several heretofore unknown agents of the WHD present on this list--were still alive back in March, 1994. Kinney told me Halterman was deceased, but did not say when or how he died, mainly because I did not ASK him at that time. I have since tried to ask the question to former S/A Kinney, but have not been able to contact him.

But that is it--no other reference is made to Halterman anywhere else, and he is the *only* agent who could possibly be a candidate for the "dead" agent, based on my personal research.

Equally intense was my search for the "agent" of unknown repute who appears in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963. Was he real? Was he an illusion? Was it a case of mistaken identity? Was he a fake agent? Was

he a real agent? These were the questions I had to answer, or try to, to the best of my ability. As we shall see shortly, I chose the last option as being the correct choice.

As a precondition, we shall discard the problematic "identifications" of Jean Hill, as she testified to being encountered by a Secret Service agent who was most likely Dallas Times Herald reporter Jim Featherstone; equally valueless was the statement of Lee Oswald (see 24H 479), as the "agent" he pointed to a phone booth in the TSBD after the shooting was most likely WFAA newsman Pierce Allman or the more commonly identified Robert MacNeil after all. We do not need to rely on these accounts, as there are other sources. The following people stated that they encountered an "agent" in Dealey Plaza, or they gave information that definitely tends to strengthen the accounts of others on this issue.

Law enforcement officers noted the presence of an agent in the plaza: Joe Marshall Smith, who even saw credentials (7H 535), D.V. Harkness (6H 312), Constable Seymour Weitzman (7H 107), and Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig (cited in *Crossfire*, 330). Spectators Malcolm Summers (quoted on "Nova," November, 1988), Gordon Arnold, (Dallas Morning News, August 27, 1978), and Ronald Fischer (6H 196), all saw or corroborated other "sightings."

What does the "official" record reveal about these alleged 'sightings'? Yeah, we know...or do we? Going back to the original "official" statement, or party line, was quite an eye opening experience: "All the Secret Service agents *assigned to the motorcade* stayed with the motorcade all the way to the hospital. None remained at the scene of the shooting, and none entered the School Book Depository at or immediately after the time of the shooting." (Commission Document 3, p. 44--emphasis added)

So, in actual fact, this statement, drafted by Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon and General Counsel G. d'Andelot Belin, only accounts for the **sixteen** agents traveling in the motorcade--two in the lead car (Lawson and Sorrels), two in the limousine (Greer and

Kellerman), eight in the follow up (Kinney, Roberts, Hill, McIntyre, Ready, Landis, Bennett, Hickey), one in LBJ's car (Youngblood), and the three in the VP follow-up car (Johns, Taylor and Kivett)!! Discarding the notion that "Lem" Johns was the agent (he was left behind VERY briefly on the ROAD and hitched a ride in one of the camera cars as verified by the film record), and stipulating that the other WHD agents assigned to the Trade Mart, Love Field, Austin, and other places, based on the "official" record, really were there the whole time, what does that leave us with?

For one thing, there were, "officially" speaking, seven agents in the *Dallas* field office of the Secret Service: SAIC Sorrels, as noted, in the lead car; Robert Steuart and John Joe Howlett, at the Trade Mart; Roger C. Warner, and William H. Patterson, both stationed at Love Field. But, as you note, that is only five of the seven agents. And there's the rub--the Secret Service reports in Volume XVIII alone confirm what five of the seven of the Dallas agents were doing on November 22--what about the other two--Charles E. Kunkel and James F. "Mike" Howard?

There are NO reports from these two men in the volumes (quite a strange departure), and NO testimony was taken from them either (although with no testimony taken from seven of the eight SS agents in the follow up, that should not surprise us). Coincidentally, both of these agents would go on to guard the Oswald family after the assassination and subsequent death of LHO; in fact, good old Marguerite Oswald felt that these agents were involved in the actual conspiracy itself (1H 169-170)! Howard, who would go on to join the WHD on March 29, 1964, was interviewed in an AP story related in the "Fresno Bee" on 11/22/93, the 30th anniversary of JFK's murder. Despite the obvious need to focus on the assassination, there was no mention in that interview of where either Howard (or Kunkel..) were during the critical time of the shooting in the middle of Elm Street!

Are there any candidates from the WHD who are "eligible" to have been the "real agent" in Dealey Plaza on November 22? Yes, the

aforementioned Dennis R. Halterman, and for the very same reasons, another new and obscure name: Ronald M. Pontius. Pontius, in Houston on November 21, also "disappears" from the detailed, written record and, like Halterman, this omission stands out noticeably from the shift reports and other documents--if one applies Peter Dale Scott's "negative template" hypothesis: if something is not there that **SHOULD** be there, something's amiss. Interestingly, during my interview of Houston DNC advance man Marty Underwood, he mentioned that the one agent I should contact about these matters was none other than Pontius himself, a completely unknown name to be then (Oct., 1992), and still a pretty obscure name now. Finally, as readers of my book, *The Third Alternative*, know, former agent Abraham W. Bolden, Sr., expressed much suspicion about fellow former agent Harvey Henderson as being a possible candidate for the "agent" in Dealey Plaza. At that time, Henderson was "removed" from the WHD-- if you believe Bolden, because he was extremely bitter towards JFK, and this removal happened shortly before Dallas. I have been unable to confirm or deny the story conclusively, as Henderson passed away in early 1994 just as I was seeking to interview him.

One final clue to both the mystery of the "dead" agent and the "unknown agent" in Dealey Plaza on November 22 may come from the statements of former Dallas agent Robert A. Steuart, as revealed in Bill Sloan's 1993 work, *JFK--Breaking the Silence* (pp 1-5). Although the agent who spoke to Sloan was unnamed in the book, Sloan *confirmed to me the agent's identity* based on my firm conviction that this agent **HAD** to have been Steuart. Why? Because, as I told Sloan, the agent used *the identical language* with me during my two

"attempted" interviews with him in 1992 and 1993; in any event, Sloan confirmed my suspicions. So, just what did Steuart say to Sloan (and me)? Sworn to absolute secrecy about the "Kennedy thing," Steuart went on to say, "I can't talk about it...There are so many things I could tell you, but I just can't... I can't tell you anything... I'd like to, but I can't.... It

was a very heavy deal, and they would know. Someone would know. It's...too dangerous, even now."

This, from a local agent, stationed at the Trade Mart on November 22, 1963.

Were the stories about the "dead" Secret Service agent true? Quite possibly, for there is one viable candidate. What about the "agent" in Dealey Plaza? He most likely was a **GENUINE** agent, for there are five potential candidates: two local agents, two Washington agents, and one bitter renegade agent, whereabouts unknown, on that fateful day in Dallas. One thing is sure: if the man on the knoll was the renegade, it was one *hell of a conspiracy*, and if an agent was killed, why the silence?

Lee Harvey
Oswald:
"Read My
Lips: I'm
Just a
Patsy!"



by Steve Gerlach

[Ed. note: as author Steve Gerlach notes, his chronology is taken from the article "The Last Words of Lee Harvey Oswald," compiled by the late Mae Brussell. It should be noted that some of the times and exact phrasings are slightly inaccurate, and attempts have been made, with Mr. Gerlach's permission, to nudge them towards accuracy here. Several Oswald statements are intentionally paraphrased, but based on extant accounts, as they were in Brussell's original piece]

Lee Harvey Oswald was a very smart man. Don't believe everything they tell you. Our man Lee was certainly *au courant* on the assassination weekend!

His life was a hall of mirrors. One minute he's pro-Castro, the next he's anti-. He can drive a car, but he can't. He's a terrific marksman, but he isn't really. He loves Russia, but he doesn't, of course. Need we go on? If one thing is certain, it is that he was a man of contradictions, a man smart enough to be a spy, smart enough to learn Russian and smart enough to play with an ace up his sleeve.

Is it any wonder, then, that his words also have a double meaning? Is this dumb-no-good- killer-Commie smart enough to leave evidence right in front of the police and the media throng that surrounded him over that fateful weekend in Dallas in 1963? Given his record...of course he is. And his comments were not only insightful, but also fact-ridden.

I use for the basis of this thesis an article compiled by Mae Brussell (reprinted in Probable Cause 11&12) that lists all known statements made by Oswald between his arrest and death. Now, these quotes are based on the recollections of a variety of witnesses present at different times and are not verbatim transcripts. But you will find that the quotes have the ring of truth about them and, if we all put our thinking caps on and look for double meanings, are very illuminating.

12:40-12:45 PM, November 22, 1963:
After the assassination, Oswald grabs a cab. "May I have this cab?" Now here's a man in a hurry, but he's polite and does not seem rushed. "I will let you have this one..." He offers the cab to a woman, also wanting a cab. Cool, calm and polite. Hardly your mad assassin in flight. In fact, most of the comments attributed to Oswald over that weekend are all very calm. No fear, no worry. He presents himself as a man with nothing to fear--fearless even to the point of publicly seeking counsel, but privately rejecting it when visited by representatives of the ACLU and the Dallas Bar. Did he think someone else would come to his rescue?

After returning to the boardinghouse, grabbing his handgun, and hiding out in the Texas Theater (for a possible contact?) he is approached by late arriving police (an Assistant D.A., two FBI, et al) who move in for the

arrest. "This is it" or "Well, it's all over now." Both statements have been reported and both have interesting connotations. Both seem to have a defeated inflection about them. "The Game's Up" as they used to say. Here is the only time Oswald is openly violent, lunging at a police officer and making sure that the Dallas Police Department (DPD) doesn't decide to shoot him dead on the spot before he has a chance to be saved by those in control. Shrewdly, this tactic works and Oswald, suddenly yelling, "I'm not resisting arrest!" is carted from the theater alive, not dead.

2:00-2:15PM: On the way to the Police Department, Oswald drops a bombshell: "I have been in the Marine Corps., have a dishonorable discharge, and went to Russia." Okay, now you'll find through this article that Oswald frequently alluded to his past, his background, what he's done and where he's been. He volunteers this information and it is almost as if he is trying to lead the DPD into investigating certain areas. In this case: LOOK: into my Marine record, find out why I have a dishonorable discharge, research my stay in Russia. These specific "look" statements will now be labeled "LOOK:" by way of an explanation as there are many to come!

There's more: "I had some trouble with police in New Orleans for passing out pro-Castro literature...I am not being handled right." Here again, he's telling them more than they know! LOOK: into my New Orleans arrest. If the DPD had done this, they would have found why he was arrested, what he was doing there, his address, the office address and his interview with FBI agent John Quigley after his arrest. "I am not being handled right," is a sign of either two things. Certainly, through the rest of his time in DPD custody, he complained loudly about his rights being abused, but could it also be a sign that "not being handled right" was because his escape plan had gone wrong or because this is not the way you handle a secret agent. (More on Oswald's "Escape" to come!)

2:25-4:04 PM: In Capt. Fritz's Office: "My name is Lee Harvey Oswald...I work at the Texas School Book Depository Building....I lived in Minsk and in Moscow.

LOOK: into my defection..." Wouldn't the DPD be asking themselves, "If he defected, why is he here???"

"I observed a rifle in the TSBD, where I work, on November 20, 1963...Mr. Roy Truly, the supervisor, displayed the rifle...I never owned a rifle *myself*." Oswald hints here that there was more than one rifle in the building at the time of the assassination. An interesting fact that would soon be certified, temporarily at least, as correct, as there were numerous reports that a Mauser, in addition to the Mannlicher, was found. We will come back to Oswald's denial of owning a rifle because this is a story he sticks with, even as evidence to the contrary mounts.

"I was secretary of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans a few months ago..." LOOK: Examine the FPCC...you'll find it's a front (more statements to confirm this soon).

"I changed my clothing and went to a movie...I carried a pistol with me to the movie because I felt like it, for no other reason...I didn't shoot President John F. Kennedy or Officer J. D. Tippit..." Interesting statements here. Going home, changing clothes and grabbing a pistol is not the sign of a man on a stroll "for no other reason," but more like the actions of a man aware of the situation and taking precautions...change appearance, grab some protection, go to a predetermined destination. These statements should be viewed with others below that Oswald will make to Marina which indicate that, one way or another, he was not going to be around much longer. Oswald emphatically denied shooting both Tippit and Kennedy at this point. Oswald also confronted FBI agent Hosty for the first time during this interrogation, and made it known that he was not happy in the presence of Hosty. Why not?

4:05 PM: Lineup #1: "It isn't right to put me in line with these teenagers...You know what you are doing, and you are trying to railroad me...I want my lawyer...I desire to put on a jacket similar to those worn by some of the other individuals in the lineup..." These statements are good indications that Oswald is

of sound mind and knows exactly what's going on. He knows his rights and complains to no avail. How many other people, thrust into a lineup, would know the technicalities about what can and can't be done? [*The "teenage" remark may have been in a subsequent lineup, as the first lineup was Oswald, DPD officers Clark and Perry (no relation to the Parkland doctors of 3 hours earlier), and jailer Don Ables, and they were reasonably well dressed, and hardly teenagers.]

4:45-6:30 PM: Second Interrogation in Fritz's Office; To FBI Agent James Hosty, Oswald states: "I know you" LOOK: I know him! Shouldn't the DPD be questioning Hosty? How do you know Lee? What contact have you had with Lee? Why are you keeping close tabs on Lee? The list is endless. "I support the Castro revolution...I never had a card to the Communist party...I am a Marxist, but not a Leninist-Marxist." Enough information here to send any DPD detective into a spin. A good explanation here, though, is that, as far as the DPD were concerned, "Castro," "Communist," "Marxist," "Leninist-Marxist" were all the same thing to a southern, red-neck police force in 1963 -- read "Commie-pinko-bastard"!

"The only package I brought to work was my lunch." An interesting comment in light of Buell Wesley Frazier's evidence of the mysterious "curtain rods." Has anyone ever thought that Frazier might have been forced to make the statements he did? He was arrested on the day in question on a "conspiracy" charge in relation to JFK's death, his home was searched, and his rifle and ammunition were seized. If you were charged with something like that, wouldn't you turn yellow, roll over and submit? Or at least make up a story about Lee and a package if they ask you to?

"I never ordered any guns...nothing irritated me about the President." It's all in the reading, it's all how you say it. "I never ordered any guns." Or, more likely, "I never ordered any guns." Oswald always answered with intelligence. He rarely denied anything and even more rarely *agreed* with anything. He just keeps the gates wide open in case his story has to change. Yeah, the guns were ordered, but I

didn't order them...there's more like this, soon! The President didn't irritate him. So why shoot him? Oswald shows no sign of being angry with JFK, but also no sign of thinking he was a great man. Just a balanced, "I don't care either way" attitude.

"How can I afford a rifle on the TSBD salary of \$1.25 an hour?...John Kennedy had a nice family..." Good question! Oswald couldn't afford the gun, but then again, his tax returns are classified. John Kennedy was a family man, as was Oswald. Again, Lee shows no sign of hatred towards the President.

Roger Craig stated in "When They Kill A President" (reprinted in Probable Cause 9, through 12) that he saw Oswald getting into a station wagon just after the shooting in Dealey Plaza. When Oswald is confronted with this question: "Tell us about the CAR Lee." Lee replied: "That STATION WAGON belongs to Mrs. Ruth Paine. Don't try to bring her into this. She had nothing to do with it." LOOK: That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Ruth Paine. Now, don't you drag her into this because she had absolutely nothing to do with it, so you leave her alone. If I was DPD detective on the ball, I'd be dragging Mrs. Paine into this, pronto, and I would also ask Oswald the most obvious imaginable question--if you know who is not involved, Lee, would you mind telling us who is?

But they didn't. It's a classic example, on both sides, of double-speak: deny, deny, deny, but at the same time lay the ground-work for someone smart enough to, outside the ordinary channels, find out everything they need to know. Lee can't tell them straight out, it's not his job, what he's doing for his country is classified, so they have to stumble around and find these things out until someone steps in front of them and says, "Son, you've seen enough." Oswald is counting on such statements as this one above to get him off the hook. GO TO Ruth Paine, ASK HER about the station wagon, then I can go free.

"Everybody will know who I am now." This statement was, like the Zapruder film, misprinted in the Warren Commission. They say that Oswald actually said, "Now,

everybody will know who I am." There is a vast difference between thumping one's chest and yelling, "Now, everyone will know who I am," and meekly lamenting, "Everybody will know who I am now." Far from sounding thrilled at the prospect of great notoriety, Oswald was actually upset that his cover was blown. EVERYBODY will know he's Oswald. EVERYBODY will know he's Hidell. The game is at an end, he has been flushed out.

"The Fair Play for Cuba Committee has definitely been investigated." LOOK: hint...hint...Find out who / where / why the FPCC was investigated. Leads to Banister and the others and gun-running and CIA and FBI activities.

6:30 PM: Lineup #2: "I didn't shoot anyone...I never killed anybody." That's our Lee, maintaining his thought-provoking denials in the hall. Never innocent, never wrongly charged. Just that he never killed anyone. He never shot anyone. Someone did, and Lee might know who, but it was never Lee who shot anyone. Nowhere is it reported that Lee ever said that he was innocent!

7:50 PM: Lineup #3: "I am only a patsy." The first time Oswald used those immortal words. Once again, not that Oswald was innocent, not that he has no idea what's happening, just that he was set up. Could Shakespeare have said it any better?

7:55 PM: Fritz's office: "I think I have talked long enough. I don't have anything else to say...I don't care to talk anymore...I am waiting for someone to come forward to give me legal assistance..." Finally, Oswald decides to clam-up. He decides to wait until "someone" comes forward to give him some help. Little did he know that the most serious person who would come forward to give him assistance that weekend would be "Sparky" Rubenstein (recall that the ACLU and Dallas Bar did come by, but LHO told them he would give it time to see how things shook out).

11:00-11:20 PM: Conversation with Office John Adamcik and FBI Agent Manning Clements: "I have no tattoos or permanent scars." Interesting, considering Oswald had mastoidectomy scars and left upper-arm scars.

11:20-11:25 PM: Lineup #4: The Press Conference: Paraded out in front of the cameras and, therefore, the world, Oswald, now the sacrificial lamb being led to the slaughter, shows an insight into just how calm and rational he was at the time. His quote, the famous one, we all know it, could easily have been spoken by a defense attorney in any courtroom in the world. He is asked, "Did you kill the President?" "No. I have not been charged with that. In fact, nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the newspaper reporters in the hall asked me that question." But he never says that he is innocent! Remember, at this stage, Oswald was only aware that he had only been charged with murdering Tippit and he does indeed look shaken when confronted with the question of killing the President, just as he freezes up when told by one of the reporters that he **had been charged** with shooting the President. It should strike one as odd that a suspect learns he has been formally charged with assassinating the President of the United States from members of the press corps, not members of the police department.

1:35 AM, Saturday 23rd November: Oswald is arraigned for the charge of murder with malice of JFK: "Well, sir, I guess this is the trial..." I think this speaks for itself. Did he already know that those "others" who should set out to clear him, to tell those in charge that they had the wrong man, had already flown the coop? Did he already know that he was taking the fall for this tragedy? That the government he served was going to hang him out to dry? Did he know that this would be his only trial?

6:30 AM: Oswald is charged with, but **never** arraigned for, the attempted murder of the Governor of Texas. When asked about that event later in the day, Oswald seemed surprised, something that should NOT have happened had he been on the business end of a sniper's rifle. That subject should have come up far earlier, to test Oswald's reflexes; not surprisingly, it didn't come up, so it tested no reflexes.

10:30 AM-1:10 PM: Fritz's Office: After some sleep, Oswald is interrogated again and

once more he puts the basic facts (read: hints) of the case forward. "...I never owned a rifle..." LOOK: But perhaps Hidell did... "...Michael Paine owned a car..."

LOOK: question Michael Paine. "...Ruth Paine owned two cars..." LOOK: question Ruth Paine. "...The FBI has thoroughly investigated me at various other times..."

LOOK: Ask the FBI to tell you who I am "...I am familiar with all types of questioning and have no intention of making any statements..." LOOK: Get it, guys? Come oooonnnnn! I'm an agent of the government "familiar with all types of questioning" and I won't be "making any statements."

"...I was arrested in New Orleans for disturbing the peace and paid a \$10 fine for demonstrating for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. I had a fight with some anti-Castro refugees and they were released while I was fined..." LOOK: into this incident...contact the FBI who will tell you I was interviewed by one of them. Find out about Camp Street and my intelligence links.

"...I didn't shoot John Kennedy...I don't own a rifle....I didn't tell Buell Wesley Frazier anything about bringing back some curtain rods..." Oswald, once again, denies that he was the one who shot Kennedy, and that he doesn't own a rifle - but someone else does. Buell Wesley Frazier is again mentioned and again Oswald's story is at odds with Frazier's...

LOOK: Into Buell Wesley Frazier.

"My wife lives with Mrs. Ruth Paine....I don't know Mrs. Paine very well, but Mr. Paine and his wife were separated a great deal of the time...the garage at the Paines' house has some sea bags that have a lot of my personal belongings."

LOOK: Into the Paine's background [their tax returns are classified]. Michael works for Bell Aerospace [the "tip off" call about Oswald came from Bell Aerospace] check out the garage and find my "personal belongings" that will clear my name and prove I am an agent for the government. Minox spy camera etc. etc. The DPD ignored this.

"The name Alek Hidell was picked up while

working in New Orleans in the Fair Play for Cuba organization." LOOK: Once again, look into the FPCC....note that Oswald didn't "assume" the name or "change his name" but that the name "Alek Hidell was picked up" while working with the FPCC in New Orleans...follow those leads, my men in blue....

1:10-1:30 PM: Lee is visited by Marguerite Oswald and Marina Oswald: To his mother: "There is nothing you can do. Everything is fine." Amazingly calm for someone who's charged with having murdered the President. To his wife: "It's a mistake. I'm not guilty. There are people who will help me. You have friends. They'll help you...be sure to buy shoes for June..." Lee, still calm, reassures his wife that there are "people who will help me" and that Marina's friends will "help you." Lee also wants to make sure his daughter, June, will get new shoes. This is of importance and shows that Lee is certain that he will not be in Texas (and maybe the USA) much longer. There would be plenty of time for him to ask about his daughter in the days / weeks / months leading up to his trial, but he seems to know that his time is limited - more on this below.

3:30-3:40 PM: Oswald is visited by his brother: "I don't know what is going on. I just don't know what they are talking about...Don't believe all the so-called evidence." Lee makes it clear that the evidence is a sham and that he doesn't know what is happening. When his brother, Robert, looks into Lee's eyes for some clue as to what is happening, Lee states: "Brother, you won't find anything there..." A sign that Lee is part of a need-to-know hierarchy? And that Lee knows nothing more than what he was told?

Robert shows some unique insight during this conversation and comments that he didn't believe that Paines were friends of Lee's. Lee answered back, "Yes they are." Does this draw them into the events as agents? As minders? The Paines become more and more suspicious in the events that follow.

Robert Oswald would tell the Warren Commission, "To me his answers were mechanical, and I was not talking to the Lee I

knew." An interesting statement indeed, knowing Lee's background! It seems he is just playing for time, waiting for the one piece of evidence (or one witness) to give him the all clear.

3:40 PM: Lee rings Ruth Paine: "This is Lee. Would you please call John Abt in New York for me after 6:00pm. The number for his office is _____, and his residence is _____. Thank you for your concern." Oswald has, throughout the whole time he has been in police custody, been asking for John Abt. While asking this, he has been stating that he has no idea where Abt is or how to contact him. But he manages to ring Ruth Paine and give her Abt's details. It also seems that Ruth Paine never made the call!

At 5:30pm Oswald is visited by H. Louis Nichols, President of the Dallas Bar Association. He asks Nichols whether he knows John Abt. Mr. Nichols did not, but offered to help find a lawyer for Oswald's defense. Oswald replied: "No, not now. You might come back next week, and if I don't get some of these other people to assist me, I might ask you to get somebody to represent me." ***IF I DON'T GET SOME OF THESE OTHER PEOPLE TO ASSIST ME..*** Who is he talking about? Once again, it seems he is playing the waiting game, knowing that someone will be coming to save him soon.

6:00-6:30 PM: Captain Fritz's office...another interrogation: Oswald is confronted for the first time with the infamous "backyard" photographs. "In time I will be able to show you that this is not my picture, but I don't want to answer any more questions...I will not discuss this photograph...I understand photography real well, and that, in time, I will be able to show you that is not my picture and that it has been made by someone else..." Once again, Oswald shows a remarkable grip on the situation, noting facts that would later turn out to be true. Of further interest, however, is Lee's views on when the photographs were made and who made them.

"The Dallas Police were the culprits... The small picture was reduced from the larger one, made by some persons unknown to

me...Since I have been photographed at City Hall, with people taking my picture while being transferred from the office to the jail door, someone has been able to get a picture of my face, and with that, they have made this picture." This would explain why, on Friday, police had searched the Paine's house and found nothing, but, on the Saturday were able to return to the Paine's house and find the damning photos of Lee with the rifle. [Ed. note: there is testimony from Michael Paine that he was shown the backyard photos on Friday night, for purposes of establishing where they were taken... see 9H 444.] This makes more sense than the theory that the photos were made weeks, maybe months, before by someone else, or that they were taken by Marina. Marina took some photos, but not these photos.

"There was another rifle in the building. I have seen it. Warren Caster had two rifles, a 30.06 Mauser and a .22 for his son...I never kept a rifle at Mrs. Paine's garage at Irving....I have no receipts for purchase of any gun, and I have never ordered any guns. I do not own a rifle, never possessed a rifle...I will not say who wrote A.J. Hidell on my Selective Service card...I will not tell you the purpose of carrying the card or the use I made of it." LOOK: for the other rifles. LOOK: into Warren Caster. LOOK: into the Paine's garage. Once again, read the statement above out loud and place the emphasis on the word "I." I never kept a rifle...I have no receipts...I have never ordered any guns...I do not own a rifle.... Oswald is not denying that the gun was purchased, only that he never ordered or purchased it. The same can be made for the Selective Service card with Hidell on it.

9:30 PM: Lee rings Ruth Paine to speak with Marina: "Marina, please. Would you try to locate her?" [Marina has already moved.] Huh?? Let's all do a big double-take on that one! Huh? Marina has already moved. Marina has already moved! Already? This is the first sign of both a split between Marina and Ruth and an attempt--and a successful one--to isolate Marina from the unfolding events so even she cannot aid Oswald in his time--remaining hours of life--of need. Oswald seems upset by this.

Marina, of course, has refused to speak with Ruth Paine from that day onwards. Does she already know that her husband is the sacrificial patsy? This is the last chance Lee gets to try and communicate with his wife. Did Ruth Paine try to contact Marina? No.

9:30-11:15 AM: Sunday 24th November, Fritz's Office final interrogation: "If you ask me about the shooting of Tippit, I don't know what you are talking about...The only thing I am here for is because I popped a policeman in the nose in the theater, which I readily admit I did, because I was protecting myself." No argument here. Lee sums up his case very simply. He'll admit to what he did, but can't talk on anything else like the Tippit killing as he has no idea what happened as he was already in the theater at the time of the shooting, waiting to be collected by those who placed him in this situation in the first place.

"I learned about the job vacancy at the TSBD from people in Mrs. Paine's neighborhood..." Once again Lee is at pains (no pun intended) to drag Ruth and Michael Paine into this. Now, wouldn't you, as a proper, upstanding policeman go and interrogate the Paines?? You betcha!

"I visited my wife Thursday night, Nov. 21, whereas I normally visited her over the weekend, because Mrs. Paine was giving a party for the children on the weekend. They were having a houseful of neighborhood children. I didn't want to be around at such a time..." This comment just doesn't rub. It makes no sense at all....unless we look at it from the point of view that Lee knew he wouldn't be around after Friday. That's why he visited earlier in the week, the only time he ever did this. Because he knew that come Friday afternoon he's be out of Dallas, and most possibly out of the country. When this statement is considered along with Oswald's comment to Marina to remember to buy June new shoes, the pieces begin to fall into place.

"It was not on the back seat. Mr. Frazier must have been mistaken or else thinking about the other time when he picked me up." Once again, Oswald calls attention to the fact that he had no package and that Frazier is lying.

"The rental application said Fair Play for Cuba Committee and the American Civil Liberties Union...Maybe I put them on there...I never ordered a rifle under the name of Hidell, Oswald, or any other name...I never permitted anyone else to order a rifle to be received in this box...I never ordered any rifle by mail order or bought any money order for the purpose of paying for such a rifle..." Yet again, Lee is imparting information to the DPD, but they just can't see it for what it is. I didn't order a rifle under the name Hidell or Oswald -- someone else did. I never ordered any rifle by mail order or bought a money order -- someone else did. Open your eyes guys...he's giving it to you on a plate!

And again, "I don't recall anything about the A.J. Hidell being on the post office card...I never received a package sent to me through the mailbox in Dallas, Box No. 2915, under the name of Alek Hidell, absolutely not..." I didn't receive it -- someone else did.

"The American people will soon forget the President was shot, but I didn't shoot him..." Is Oswald foreshadowing events to come? Not his shooting, but war with Cuba? With the original plan being for the trial of the assassin to lead to a Hidell in New Orleans, then to the Fair Play For Cuba Committee, then to Cuba - was war with Cuba the ultimate goal? Is that why Oswald says no one will remember Kennedy being shot? Because based on what he knew, even bigger events were to come? Even as he says this, he makes certain, once again, to state that he didn't shoot the president.

Finally, we'll let the last words Oswald spoke in Fritz's office stand for themselves. Nothing needs to be read into these lines. Just read them for what they are, the stark truth: "...I did not kill President Kennedy or Officer Tippit. If you want me to cop out to hitting or pleading guilty to hitting a cop in the mouth when I was arrested, yeah, I plead guilty to that. But I do deny shooting both the President and Tippit."

Any hope of Oswald elaborating on his evidence in the future and giving evidence to point the finger at those who were really in charge of killing President Kennedy was lost six minutes later when Jack Ruby silenced him

forever.

While Oswald was on the operating table at Parkland Hospital with doctors trying to save his life, FBI agents stood over Oswald trying to get him to tell them whatever he knew.

The irony is that he had been trying to do just that for the past two days, but no one was listening.

The last questions to ask have to be: were the Dallas police too stupid to pick up on all this evidence? Were they pressured not to follow it up? Or did they just ignore it anyway? Lee gave them all the clues they needed. The tragedy is that they didn't use them.

(Visit the JFK magazine - Probable Cause Australia website at:
<http://www.crafti.com.au/~gerlach/probeaus.htm>)

Food For Thought

Visitors who come to Dealey Plaza from all over the world since 1993 are able to see the plaque at the foot of Elm Street (roughly across from the point in the street where the head shot(s) occurred. The plaque, as seen below, declares Dealey Plaza a National Historic Landmark, and was installed in ceremonies in the plaza on the thirtieth anniversary of JFK's assassination. The editors would not be the first to say it, but we feel it is a most unfitting honor bestowed. The complete wording of the plaque is as follows:

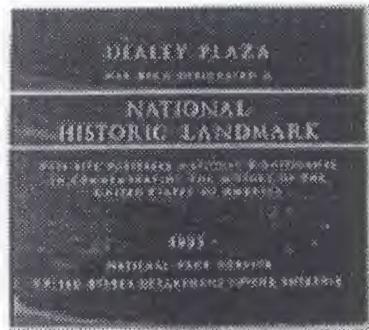
"DEALEY PLAZA
has been designated a
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
This site possesses national significance
in commemorating the history of the
United States of America
1993
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior"

No, there is no mention of the *reason why* it's a national historic landmark. No, the name of President John F. Kennedy is nowhere to be found on it. No, the date of the historic event that it ostensibly commemorates is not written on its face. As author Gaeton Fonzi aptly stated in the prologue to his excellent book *The Last Investigation* -- "Right here is where a man died!"

As those who have been there can tell you, the Plaza is visited by children and adults of all ages from many countries all across the globe. They ask questions; they want to know what makes this particular place so very special, in such a profound and tragic way. The plaque says nothing except that its presence somehow designates this place as a national landmark. The "who" and the "why" are not explained.

We believe that this sorry excuse for a commemorative plaque at the place where John Kennedy's presidency came to an untimely end should be replaced. It should *at least bear the man's name* and acknowledge the fact that he was our 35th president, and that this is the site upon which he was killed. We urge those who care for his memory to write a letter of protest (as we have) to the National Park Service in order to begin a process in which this wrong can be made right. The black mark made on the pages of history there on Elm Street should not be made any darker than it already is....

-- Jan Stevens



The plaque on Elm Street in Dealey Plaza

Warren Commission II

by Dave Perry

On or about July 3, 1997 the Records Review Board made public new Kennedy assassination documents. One document revealed Warren Commission member Gerald R. Ford was responsible for altering a key detail in the final report. The change had to do with the location of a bullet entry wound in Kennedy's back. The draft report read "A bullet had entered his (JFK's) back at a point slightly above the shoulder and to the right of the spine." Ford modified the sentence to read "A bullet had entered the back of his neck at a point slightly to the right of the spine." In the final version it was again changed to "A bullet had entered the base of the back of his neck slightly to the right of the spine." [see inside cover]

Most newspapers covering this story claimed pro-conspiracy theorists such as myself were concerned with this revelation. **Everyone** should be. Ford's alteration only served to strengthen the single bullet theory. The former President defends his actions by claiming "My changes were only an attempt to be more precise." **MORE PRECISE!** At what point does the medical musings of a lifelong politician take precedence of the reports and testimony of the doctors that performed the autopsy? It becomes clear when you review the testimony of the autopsy doctors. You see they didn't support the single bullet theory either.

Back in 1992 a great flap arose when the American Medical Association decided to "clarify" the autopsy doctor's positions. Shortly after the AMA published their report my rebuttal was printed in *The Third Decade*. The complete piece follows. Note how the spin-doctors have attempted to alter history.

I thought Kennedy assassination researchers had enough problems. However, Dennis L. Breo the national correspondent for the "Journal of the American Medical

Association" has written an article on the Kennedy case. Breo's piece, "JFK's death—the plain truth from the MDs who did the autopsy" appears in the May 27, 1992 issue and supports the Warren Commission autopsy findings.¹ Breo and Dr. George Lundberg, JAMA's editor, spent two days last April 1 interviewing Doctors James Humes and "J" Thornton Boswell. Humes and Boswell did the Kennedy autopsy.

Before publication, Dr. Lundberg held a press conference. He affirmed (in a classic "fox in the hen house" maneuver) his opinion that the original Kennedy autopsy was accurate. The autopsy report concluded two bullets struck the President from above and to the rear. Researchers voiced skepticism at this opinion. However, for Breo, Lundberg, Humes and Boswell it was - CASE CLOSED!

Almost thirty years after the event, there is a general belief the medical staff "bungled" the autopsy.² We now find two of the three doctors responsible have cleared themselves! The third, Dr. Pierre A. Finck, was a ballistics expert for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He lives in Switzerland and unfortunately did not participate in the interview.

Dr. Lundberg emerges as though he is a spokesperson for the American Medical Association. He is only the editor of the AMA's journal. Mr. Breo's commentary is nothing more than an article in a magazine.

The study deals chiefly with the head wound. There is negligible reference to CE 399 "the magic bullet" and there only to the extent that the bullet passes through the president's body. There is nothing about how the same bullet proceeds though John Connally and ends up on a stretcher with only slight deformity?

Breo did question Humes about his tracking of this bullet. Humes remarked, "It was bothering me very greatly, like nothing you can imagine, that we could find neither the second bullet nor its exit track. "J" (Boswell) and I both knew that bullets can do funny things in the body, and we thought it might have been deflected down to the extremities. We x-rayed the entire body, but did not find the bullet."³

So what prevented them from continuing? Humes suggested, "It's true that we were influenced by the fact that we knew Jackie Kennedy was waiting upstairs to accompany the body to the White House and that Admiral Burkley wanted us to hurry as much as possible."⁴ Humes admits later that Burkley "...wanted the autopsy report by midnight Sunday, November 24 ..." ⁵

These are the statements of a doctor who claims to have been "in total charge" of the autopsy and "was unsazed by all the commotion."

Breo should face the fact that he made no attempt to resolve basic questions about the second bullet. For example: The autopsy doctors claimed the bullet (CE 399) struck Kennedy in the back at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees. Why was this angle changed in the Warren Report to 17 degrees 30 minutes?

"During the later stages of this autopsy, Dr. Humes located an opening which appeared to be a bullet hole which was below the shoulders... This opening was probed by Dr. Humes with the finger, at which time it was determined that the trajectory of the missile entering at this point had entered at a downward position of 45 to 60 degrees."⁶

Arlen Specter reinforces the point with his questioning of Dr. Perry in Warren Volume 3 at page 373. Specter asked Perry to give an opinion whether, based upon the back wound, the neck wound was entrance or exit. But first Specter needed to qualify the question.

"Permit me to supply some additional facts, Dr. Perry, which I shall ask you to assume as being true* for purposes of having you express an opinion." One assumed fact was "... with the bullet striking him (Kennedy) at an angle of declination of approximately 45 degrees, striking the President on the upper right posterior thorax just above the upper border of the scapula..." (3H-373)

Study page 106 of The Warren Report and find the angle changes to 17 degrees 30 minutes! Why? That is the angle from the sixth floor window to the President's back. An angle of 45 degrees could not be traced back to the window.

Is there any evidence that the doctors attempted to trace the bullet path to find if the missile exited at the throat?

There was confusion between the Parkland and Bethesda doctors about the neck wound. Humes did not even realize there was anterior neck damage until he spoke over the phone with Dr. Perry on November 23. The Warren volumes detail the disagreement between the Parkland doctors themselves over the wound being of entrance or exit. Dr. Akin - thought it was entrance (6H-65,67). Dr. Baxter - entrance (6H-42). Dr. Clark - did not see wound (6H-22). Nurse Henchliffe - entrance (6H-143). Dr. Jenkins - exit (6H-48,51). Dr. Jones - entry (6H- 55,56). Dr. McClelland - did not see wound (6H-33,35). Dr. Perry - not enough facts (6H-11). Dr. Peters - entry (6H-71).

The Commission claimed Perry and the other Parkland doctors agreed the neck wound was an exit wound. This conclusion was based on inaccurate, assumed "facts" presented by Specter and developed through Humes' autopsy report. The Commission had the gall to profess that Dr. Perry created the confusion.

"At a news conference, Dr. Perry answered a series of hypothetical questions and stated to the press a variety of possibilities could account for the President's wounds." 7

Looking carefully at the Warren Report, I can't find any mention of the equally hypothetical question Specter asked of Dr. Perry and the Parkland doctors.

The doctors conceded the neck wound was an exit wound based on Specter's question. However, it was still the responsibility of the autopsy doctors to track the missile that caused the back wound and learn where it exited. This didn't happen.

"Further probing determined that the distance traveled by this missile was a short distance inasmuch as the end of the opening could be felt with the finger." 8

Also remember that Jackie and Admiral Burkley were waiting impatiently outside. Humes decided not to trace the bullet because it would involve dissecting the neck. In Humes' view, "Dissecting the neck was totally

unnecessary and would have been criminal." 9 There is no evidence of the bullet exiting at the neck.

Breo never had Humes tackle questions about Governor Connally's injuries. The path of CE 399 puzzled Humes. Shouldn't fair unbiased reporting require more digging? The Warren Commission assumption is CE 399 hit Kennedy in the back and exited at the throat. For the thesis to work that same missile must also injure Connally.

How did the Commission handle the conflicts between the volumes and the *Report*?

Specter: . . . could that missile have made the wound on Governor Connally's right wrist?

Dr. Humes: I think that this is most unlikely . . . This missile is basically intact; its jacket appears to me to be intact, and I do not understand how it could possibly have left fragments [in the Governor's wrist] . . . 10

Specter: Dr. Humes, under your opinion which you have just given us, what effect, if any, would that have on whether this bullet, 399, could have been the one to lodge in Governor Connally's thigh?

Humes: I think that extremely unlikely. The reports . . . from Parkland tell of an entrance wound on the lower midthigh... and X rays taken there are described as showing metallic fragments in the bone, which apparently by this report were not removed and are still present in Governor Connally's thigh. I can't conceive of where they came from this missile. 11

Specter: And could it have been the bullet which inflicted the wound on Governor Connally's right wrist?

Dr. Finck: No; for the reason that there are too many fragments described in that wrist. 12

The Warren *Report* distilled the autopsy doctors' testimony. "All the evidence indicated that the bullet found on the Governor's stretcher could have caused all his wounds. The weight of the whole bullet prior to firing was approximately 160-161 grains... An X ray of

the Governor's wrist showed very minute metallic fragments, and two or three of these fragments were removed from his wrist. All these fragments were sufficiently small and light so that the nearly whole bullet found on the stretcher could have deposited those pieces of metal as it tumbled through his wrist."¹³

Mr. Breo assured us of the plain truths about the Kennedy autopsy. A truth he divined from the very doctors who were responsible for the controversy. Breo's time would have been better spent looking through the Warren volumes. That is where the truth lies.

[Ed. Note: See BACK COVER for the Ford document]

Notes:

1. Dennis L. Breo, "JFK's death-the plain truth from the MDs who did the autopsy," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, (Vol. 267, No. 20, May 27, 1992) p. 2794.

2. Breo, Quoting Michael Baden M.D., p. 2802.

3. Breo, p. 2799.

4. Breo, p. 2799.

5. Breo, p. 2799.

6. Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964), Commission Document No. 7.)

7. *Ibid.*, p. 90.

8. Hearings and Exhibits, CD No. 7.

9. Breo, p.2799.

10.2H 374-375

11. 2H 376

12. 2H 382

13. Warren Report, p. 95.

Emphasis added to text by underlining

© Copyright 1992 David B. Perry. Used by exclusive permission of the author. All rights reserved.



by Joseph Backes

There have been some bizarre developments in James Earl Ray's quest for a new trial for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The primary impetus is Ray's illness, seen as terminal after he contracted Hepatitis C in jail.

Ray was diagnosed by prison health officials with this in 1994, and was not treated. According to Dr. William Pepper, "He was in critical condition in December for a period of days. It turned out that he had terminal cirrhosis of the liver and that was the result of a hepatitis C infection...it was obvious that the prison doctors in the medical facility in Tennessee had diagnosed him having had hepatitis C in 1994. No one ever revealed it to the family or to me as counsel or to anyone else."

Ray's illness brought the King family into the judicial maelstrom, as they realized that if they wanted the unanswered questions addressed, they had to come forward. Led by Dexter King and Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's son and widow, respectively, they came forward to endorse Ray's quest for a trial, and testified in court on his behalf. This quickly led to granting the defense's request to test the rifle in evidence to see if it was the murder weapon, or nothing more than a throw down weapon.

Regarding those test results, the media has abused the word, "inconclusive" like a mantra: 68% of the bullets test fired did not match the death slug. Ballistics expert Dr. Robert Hathaway recommended further testing, as the issue of proper cleaning of the rifle was

THE FOURTH DECADE
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
FREDONIA NY 14063

A journal on the assassination of John F. Kennedy
Editor and Publisher: Dr. Jerry D. Rose
One year: \$25.00 (six issues) two years \$50

not addressed in the test firing. There was hope that that would be addressed in a second round of testing. Judge Joseph Brown, empowered to oversee the issue of the rifle test, seemed inclined to approve further testing. Hearings and leaks to the press followed, and all of this was compounded by Judge Brown's (a parallel to the Ruby trial judge) vacation during the critical "window of opportunity."

Concurrent with this, Judge Brown wanted the bullets from the 1968 FBI test firings and the reports on those tests.

The Memphis *Commercial Advertiser* then got into the fray, claiming judicial misconduct and overstepping of jurisdictional bounds by Judge Brown.

At the same time, July 22, Mark Lane tried to reenter the MLK case, despite no overtures from William Pepper, who has worked on behalf of both Ray and the King family since Lane's efforts, along with Andrew Hall, before the HSCA almost two decades ago.

On July 24, Judge John Colton appointed University of Memphis law professor Mike Roberts as a "special master" to review the files in Judge Brown's office.

On July 31 The Commercial Appeal reported that the FBI found the 1968 Ray rifle test bullets. S/A Steve Berry reported they were discovered in the ammunition archive in Washington.

Simultaneously, Judge Colton asked an attorney if Judge Brown had jurisdiction to hear the case, although that issue had seemingly been decided when previously challenged by the Court of Appeals. Judge Brown is not hearing a "case", only a petition to test the rifle. (We are supposed to believe if Ray is granted a trial it will be heard in Colton's court.) William Pepper believes that if Ray is granted a trial, the state will release Ray, fearing a result like the mock trial, a joint effort of HBO and England's Channel 4, wherein a jury of native Memphians decided that Ray was innocent.

On August 6 Colton ordered files held in Brown's office seized based on a one page report from Roberts. Brown was still on vacation, and Court Clerk Bill Key refused to seize the files until Brown returned.

On August 7th, prosecutors sought a halt in retesting of Ray's rifle. John Campbell filed a motion to dismiss the request to retest the rifle. On Aug. 8, Brown finally commented, saying politics and racism are behind the criticisms of his handling of the Ray case. Brown also found it odd that Colton would order files in his office seized while he was on vacation, adding that Colton had no authority to make such an order.

On Aug. 12, Brown, who also can appoint "special masters" considered appointing a special prosecutor in the Ray case, noting that the state seems singularly opposed to finding out the truth. Brown is accused of wanting "to conduct his own Warren Commission".

Brown then submitted a four page "Preliminary Findings of Fact and Interim Order" strongly indicating he will approve a second round of tests. Brown suggested a method of cleaning the barrel of the rifle that would not damage it, and signed an order requiring the FBI to produce the bullets for the August 19th hearing.

August 15, Campbell filed a motion challenging Brown's finding that the state is not pursuing the facts in this case. "The state vehemently denies these charges," said Campbell. He also asked Brown to suspend his request that the FBI produce their test bullets from 1968.

On August 18, one day before the planned August 19 hearing, Judge Colton gave the "special master" Mike Roberts subpoena power to look into a conspiracy into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tennessee's Attorney General John Knox Walkup immediately appealed, alleging that both Colton and Brown have overstepped their authority.

Roberts has told Colton that he has received information that others were involved in the assassination. "Three people have come to me with information regarding the killing," said Roberts, who had planned to ask Colton at a 9:30 a.m. hearing to issue subpoenas for three witnesses. This hearing was separate from Brown's planned hearing.

"What I've asked him to do is seek

testimony concerning allegations of a possible conspiracy," Colton said. Colton said that his order may be without precedent, but said it was merited in the interests of justice. "My job as judge here is to see, number one, that the truth comes out," said Colton who has no personal information of a conspiracy. "I hope we find out (the truth). I do. I think the public and the King family need to know."

Colton's order authorized Roberts "to act with subpoena power and take testimony concerning allegations of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King by any person, whether a defendant, co-defendant or indicted person...". Any testimony taken by Roberts would be done in secret and placed under seal, Colton said. Colton said he would not examine any of the testimony in order not to prejudice any possible trial for Ray.

Roberts declined to name witnesses he plans to subpoena. Roberts did confirm that one of the subpoenas will go to ABC news, whose 1993 *Prime Time Live* program aired a claim that the owner of Jim's Grill, a cafe below the second story rooming house, where prosecutors say Ray fired the fatal shot, was involved.

However, Shelby County Dist. Atty. Gen. Bill Gibbons said his office is continuing to investigate Jower's claims and "every credible lead" suggesting the involvement of others, but, "our position is that James Earl Ray murdered Dr. King and is exactly where he belongs --in prison."

On August 22, the judges agreed to halt their public feuding until the appeals court ruling. They met and discussed their differences with Probate Court Judge Donn Southern.

On August 27, The Commercial Appeal published an update on Ray's health, stating he has 4 to 6 months to live. Dr. John Fung, chief of transplant surgery at the Thomas E. Strazl Transplantation Institute stated, "It is my medical opinion that Ray be given an opportunity to undergo a liver transplantation. Without it, he will surely die." In June Davidson County Chancellor Irvin H. Kilcrease said prison officials lacked legal authority to allow Ray to travel to Pittsburgh for tests.

On August 29, the Court of Appeals

agreed with the state Attorney General that the two judges overstepped their authority. They also ruled that Ray can continue his quest for a trial.

Kathy Morante, a deputy attorney general, said Brown had the authority to order the May ballistics tests under a narrow ruling from the Court of Criminal Appeals, which said a trial judge can order new scientific tests on evidence under his control. However, he has since gone beyond that, and violated the state constitution's separation of powers rule which gives prosecutors, not judges, the authority to investigate crimes. Specifically, Morante said, Brown should not have ordered the FBI to turn over test bullets it fired from Ray's rifle in 1968, nor should he have told prosecutors to submit proposed guidelines for further tests.

Dexter King, King's son, attended the appeals court hearing to lend Ray his support. The court, meeting in Jackson, declared all of Colton's rulings in the case null and void.

Roberts said he was considering filing an appeal on Colton's behalf, noting state attorneys made a "gross misstatement" in characterizing him as a special prosecutor who would usurp the district attorney general's powers. "I had received allegations of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King," he said. "Colton felt he had a legal and ethical duty to preserve testimony." That involved taking testimony under oath and sealing it and "nothing more."

The Aug. 29 decision also voided Brown's order that the FBI turn over four test bullets from the King rifle. Ray's attorney agreed Colton should not be involved, but told the panel that Brown's August 11 order telling the FBI to turn over the 1968 test bullets was necessary because the state had never bothered to ask for them. The court also said Ray, not the state, must pay the cost of testing.

Dexter King criticized prosecutors for trying to block the truth. "We support this judge," King, 37, told reporters outside the Jackson courtroom. "We think it's very unfortunate that after he really starts getting close (to the) truth in this case that he's being attacked." "This is not about Ray. It's about justice," Dexter King said outside the courtroom. "Judge Brown is very

capable. Are we questioning his competence as a jurist?"

He was not alone. Toting a sign that read, "We Support Judge Joe Brown," Memphian Coby Smith said he too believes the truth behind King's assassination is being suppressed. Smith, 51, was in 1968 a member of the Invaders, a group of young black Memphis activists who met and at times differed with King over sanitation strike tactics in the days before his death.

Now while a second round of tests on the rifle can happen, Brown has yet to order them or set a date for another hearing.

On September 4th, in a separate legal action in Nashville, a hearing on another Ray request for a trial was canceled. At the request of Ray's defense, Davidson County Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle transferred the case to Criminal Court in Nashville. No new hearing date has been set on that Ray request, which is based on a technicality involving the 1969 death of a Memphis judge.

On September 17th, Shelby County's chief prosecutor said he is seriously investigating conspiracy allegations in the death of Dr. King. But if there was a conspiracy, D.A. Gen. Bill Gibbons said, it revolved around confessed assassin James Earl Ray. "There is a pretty good possibility that he had some help," Gibbons said. Still, he doesn't discount the state's long-held position that Ray acted alone in 1968.

Meanwhile, former Ray attorney Jack McNeil has asked the Shelby County grand jury for permission to present conspiracy allegations. McNeil said he hopes to elicit testimony from 15 witnesses under a state law that allows private citizens to make a case before the grand jury.

Also, the Commercial Appeal interviewed all the jury members they could from Ray's original "trial" in which Ray was coerced into pleading guilty and his lawyer stipulated as to his guilt. No real evidence was heard and none cross-examined. The jurors all felt Ray was guilty but they all had additional questions and comments.

The 1969 Ray jurors agreed on one

point: Ray is guilty of King's murder. Yet four of the five who commented expressed concerns that others may have escaped justice. Among the original 12, one declined comment, at least two are dead and four could not be located.

"I'll always believe there was a conspiracy," said James Pate, who in 1969 accepted Ray's guilty plea. "James Earl Ray could not have pulled this off himself. I just wish they could have a trial so everybody could know what happened." Pate, 51, said a trial could help clarify concerns, but Stovall said he didn't think the government should spend money on a trial for Ray.

John W. Blackwell agreed with Stovall. "I don't think he should get a trial -- he had his trial," said Blackwell, 60, who added he still wonders if Ray got help, but said he isn't overly troubled. "He had his opportunity."

During the mini-trial Ray got up unexpectedly and disagreed with statements that there had been no conspiracy. Ray's impromptu speech made an impression on juror James W. Ballard, now 63: "...it just seems logical (he got help). One guy who's an escaped convict on the run, why would he just up and shoot King?"

Among the jurors, only Pate, who called the 1969 panel a "rubber stamp jury," expressed strong sentiment for a trial.

On September 18th Ray lost the bid for a trial based on the technicality of Judge Preston Battle's death. Ray contended a state law in effect at the time of his plea stipulated that a motion for a new trial must be granted automatically if a judge died before ruling on it. Defense attorney Andrew Hall told CNN he will appeal Thursday's decision, but added that it is unlikely that the 69-year-old Ray, who has a terminal liver disease, will survive long enough for the decision to be overturned. After that hearing, one of Ray's attorneys said Ray is "running out of life."

It should also be noted that Gerald Posner is currently writing a book on the case.

Unless there is a radical departure from the pattern of existing events, two things seem clear: justice will be avoided in Tennessee, and James Earl Ray's death will end, judicially at least, the quest for truth in Dr. King's death.

(c) Joseph Backes 1997. Used by permission.

As We Go To Press...

Several items of interest arose in the week before publication. We took note of the CIA's 50th anniversary commemoration on the cover, of all publications, of *George*, the brainchild of John F. Kennedy, Jr. The cover piece documents a host of CIA imbroglios over a 50 year span without, of course, any reference whatsoever to the assassination of his father, which, if you read further, you will note CIA interference with.

We also had a last minute note of kindness from Mary Ferrell in Texas. She told of her recent multiple surgeries, and how, while she was in the hospital being attended by Dr. Paul Peters, Jr., she was given her *JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly* by her daughter. Young Dr. Peters marveled at how his father was part of the cover story, and asked to borrow the issue to read further. We wish young Dr. Peters success in his career, and hope he becomes interested in the followup to his father's comments. We also wish Mrs. Ferrell a full and speedy recovery.

Another passing was that of noted journalist James Phelan, who died of cancer in Temecula, California at age 85. Readers may recall that Phelan was a staunch defender of Clay Shaw (and testified at the trial), and wrote a well-known scathing article on Garrison's case for the Saturday Evening Post during that time. He also was the author of the books *Scandals, Scamps and Scoundrels* (where he continued his Garrison-bashing) and *Howard Hughes: The Hidden Years*.

Finally, a recently declassified document strongly reinforces items we have noted elsewhere in this issue about Warren Commission members having doubts about their labors. This instance is a transcript of a conversation between an HSCA staffer and J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the Warren Commission. Rankin's immediate concern, prior to his testimony, was to be given the testimonies of other WC participants, a request that was--and rightly so--denied. It seemed in reading that part that Rankin was looking to

Vol. Three, No. 1 October, 1997

cover his nether regions, judicially speaking. Beyond that, he told the HSCA staffer that he had been appalled by revelations that the CIA and the FBI had been less than wholly forthcoming in the investigation into JFK's death, and that had their nonsense been known, the agencies would have been useless. Rankin also lamented the fact that the WC had no independent investigators of their own.

Further along, Rankin asked if there was any credence to the stories floating around about Mafia-CIA links to make attempts on Castro, and he is told that those plots have been documented. He told the staffer to look into those events carefully, and is then told that they will also be looking to see if Castro might have been involved in the assassination. Rankin gave that theory little credence, and went back to his insistence that deeper looks be made into the mob-CIA connections. Although it is only a transcript and not a tape, it gives Rankin a credibility that he at least seemed concerned with the truth, also noting that there were some powerful "personalities" on the Warren Commission. One hopes there are more such revelations.



QUIZ ANSWERS (from PAGE 12)

1. Claviere
2. Acme Brick in Denton, Texas
3. Edward Pic, Robert Oswald, Edward Ekdahl
4. Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth, TX
5. Robert Edward Lee Oswald
6. His father in 1939, his mother in 1981
7. His cousin Marilyn Murret
8. June Lee
9. David
10. Alexander Ivanovich Medvedev

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

JFK/DPQ would like to thank Martin Shackelford, Joe Backes, Jack White, Lisa Pease, Russ Burr, Tom Bowden, Bill MacDowall, Dr. Gary Aguilar, and Greg Jaynes for information directly or indirectly assisting in this issue's publication.

there as he passed the building. Dealey Plaza - a landscaped area marking the western end of downtown Dallas - stretched out to the President's left. A Secret Service agent in the lead car radioed the Trade Mart that the motorcade would arrive in five minutes.

Seconds later shots were heard in rapid succession. The President's hands moved to his neck and he stiffened in his seat. A bullet had entered ^{the} ~~the~~ back ^{of his neck} at a point slightly above the shoulder ^{and} to the right of the spine. It traveled a downward path, and exited from the front of the neck, causing a nick in the left lower portion of the knot in the President's necktie. When the shooting started, Governor Connally, who had been facing toward the crowd on the right, started to turn toward the left, ^{in order to see the President}. Near the start of this turn the Governor suddenly felt a blow on his back. He had been hit by a bullet which entered at the extreme right side of his back at a point below his right armpit. The bullet traveled through his chest in a downward and forward direction, exited below his right nipple, passed through his right wrist which had been in his lap, and then caused a wound to his left thigh. The force of the bullet appeared to spin the Governor to his right and he then fell back into his wife's lap. President Kennedy was then hit by a second bullet which struck the right rear portion of his head and caused a massive and fatal wound. The President fell to the left into Mrs. Kennedy's lap.

On the lefthand side of the President's "follow-up" car, Special Agent Clinton J. Hill jumped off and raced for the President's car when he heard a noise like a firecracker and saw the President

News from....

914 W. NEELY STREET

“Before and After”

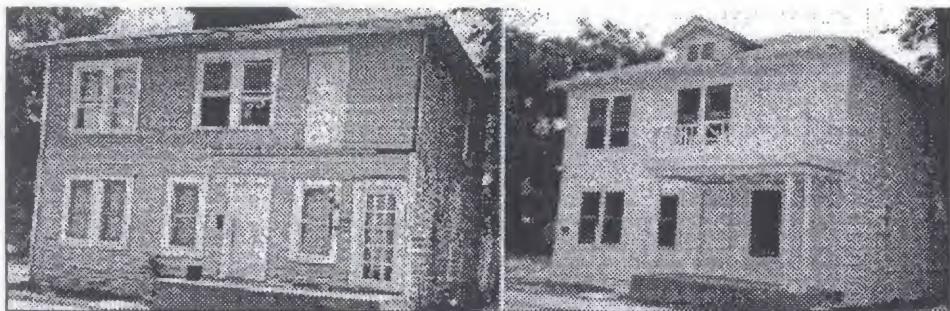


Photo on LEFT (C) Jan Stevens, 1996. RIGHT photo, courtesy Tom Bowden. Used by permission.

As is familiar to most students of the JFK case, Marina and Lee Oswald lived in the house pictured above in the Spring of 1963. They had moved here from 602 Elsbeth Street on March 3, 1963 and stayed until roughly April 24th, when Lee went to New Orleans and Marina moved in with her two children to Ruth Paine's home in Irving. It has become an often-visited site by JFK researchers over the years, since the infamous "backyard photos" were taken here. This low-income neighborhood in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas has deteriorated over the years and is now considered a somewhat dangerous location to go wandering in for very long. The photograph on the left was taken by co-editor Jan Stevens in July 1996; the one on the right taken recently by Tom Bowden, director of the Conspiracy Museum on Commerce Street in Dallas. Tom sent JFK/DPQ the following information on the former Oswald residence and its recent "transformation":

“The Neely House was purchased by Ron Nelson. At one time, Ron offered a van based tour service in Dallas. This included both an architectural and assassination tour. Ron is an architect by training. The Assassination Tour was very informative but it did assume the Warren Commission was correct. After he purchased the house in 1996, he decided to discontinue the tours. He offered the house for sale immediately after he acquired it. During the interim, he has brought the house up to code and attempted to restore the exterior to 1963. His restoration was based on pictures from The Sixth Floor and Dallas Public Library. He has indicated to me that he will not go into the tour business again. He is offering the house for sale with a price of \$41,500. His mailing address is Ron Nelson, P.O. Box 227093, Dallas, TX 75222-7093. Telephone (214) 942-4555.”

[Many thanks to Tom Bowden. See also news about the Conspiracy Museum's new plans and Archives in this issue's "IN THE NEWS"]